



April 11 / Resurrection of Our Lord

### **Matthew 28:1-8**

As the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples.

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### **To ponder**

Something strange is happening—there is a great silence on earth today, a great silence and stillness. The whole earth keeps silence because the King is asleep. God has died in the flesh and hell trembles with fear. —Epiphanius of Cyprus, “From an Ancient Homily”

### **Go and tell**

This is a day like no other. This is the day when God slumbers in the tomb. And as this day of days draws to a close and Easter morning dawns, all creation holds its breath to see what will happen next. What will God do with a crucified Jesus?

“Do not be afraid,” an angel says to women at the tomb at daybreak. It makes sense that the women might tremble in fear. Even the earth is quaking, according to Matthew. We fear things that are unfamiliar, and nothing is as unfamiliar as this—an angelic announcement about a person raised from the dead!

What will we do with a resurrected Jesus? The women at the tomb were not held back by fear. Like them, we can run to tell the news, sharing Christ’s wondrous love with the world as we go. He is risen! Alleluia!

### **Prayer**

Risen Lord Jesus, you have taken away the sting of death. Please take away our fear. Empower us to live out our baptism and to serve you boldly in the world. Amen.