

Date Preached	03-Apr-2021	Date Initiated	18-Mar-2021
Where Preached	SAK	Appointed Readings	GVE, Yr B

" '[G]o, tell ... [and] you will see Him, just as He told you.' "



It's just not a very satisfying ending, is it? Saint Mark's abrupt conclusion of his gospel seems like someone lifting the needle from the record before we've gotten to the end of the last movement ... or when the internet connection goes down with ten minutes still to go in the movie. Although later ancient editors, trying to round out the story and bring it to a more graceful close, tried pasting at least two different endings onto Mark's text, most scholars now believe that Mark's own ending is just as we heard: "and [the women] said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid." *The end.* The curtain comes down, the lights come up, and here we sit, a bit stunned, perhaps even somewhat disappointed: *That's it?? That's how it ends??* What about the Resurrection or Jesus' reappearance? ... No parting words? No final assurance that everything we've experienced up to this point was true, and not one giant misplaced hope?

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Mary Magdalen, Mary the mother of James and Salome go to the tomb, grieving and deflated, to anoint Jesus' body; to prepare it for the proper burial there'd been no time for on Friday evening. When they arrive, however, not only do they find no body—alarming enough!—but also some strange man, oddly dressed all in white, who tells them to "*go, tell* the disciples" what they've seen, because *that* will make everything alright. *Come again??*

But, of course, the angel is exactly right. For, as he is speaking with the women, Jesus' band of disciples, grieving and forlorn, sits somewhere else in Jerusalem, in a hideout. Now, Jesus has previously told His disciples, no less than three times, that it is His divine destiny to be rejected, tortured, mocked and killed ... and then He will *rise again*. The disciples know how the Jesus-story is *supposed* to end ... but *don't* know what's actually happened. Mary, Mary and Salome, on the other hand, have witnessed the very ending Jesus predicted—the empty tomb ... but since they haven't heard His predictions, they fear the work of grave robbers. Like two people who each hold one half of a torn hundred-dollar bill, each group has something of tremendous *potential* ... but of zero *value* ... unless they connect with the people who hold the other half.

And thus, the angel's command—the last word of God, if you will, in the gospel of Mark: *Go, tell!* You *will* see Jesus again, if you'll just go, tell what you've seen! Everything *will* be alright: The reality of the Resurrection ... the mercy of God's sacrifice ... the blessing of Christ's redemption and the eruptive bliss of His salvation ... all of this, the angel tells the women, will flood your lives and soak your souls with joy, if only you will *go, tell!* *Go, tell* what you've heard. *Go, tell* what you've seen. And then the Gospel ... the Good News ... the Passover of God's People: love without limit and mercy without measure ... will be complete. *Go, tell!*

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What have we heard and seen this most holy of nights? In a word, everything: an encapsulation of everything there is to know and believe ... to savor and ponder ... in the Christian faith.

- The New Fire of the Holy Spirit that suffuses the world.
- The Light of Christ that dispels all darkness.
- The forever-history of God's lavishing protection and abundance and grace upon God's people.
- Our own personal history with Jesus: into the death of our old selves and our gracious re-birth into eternal life, through the waters of Baptism.
- And, in just a few moments, we will see and hear, both again and anew, our sure place at the heavenly banquet table: dwelling—**whole-ly**, finally and eternally—in the glory of God, in the company of Christ and all the Saints in light.

With all of that, what could be left? Is there anything else required to make this new dawn of Easter complete? Yes, the angel, bids us: *Go, tell!*

- Go worship and pray, and read and discuss, and reflect and serve with your fellow parishioners, because this telling will deepen your faith and open your hearts to God in ways you could never imagine ... and complete the Easter dawn. *Go, tell!*
- Go share what you believe, as a disciple of the Risen Christ, with a friend or co-worker ... or even a stranger ... because this telling will spark in someone a desire to know Jesus like you do ... and complete the Easter dawn. *Go, tell!*
- Go feed the hungry, nurse the sick, care for the poor, companion the lonely, shelter the homeless, comfort the incarcerated and shoe the shoeless, because this telling will fill them with the Spirit in life-giving ways ... and complete the Easter dawn. *Go, tell!*
- Go advocate for justice, champion human dignity and pursue the peace of God, because this telling will awaken the world to the reign of God in ways it cares not to embrace but so desperately needs ... and complete the Easter dawn. *Go, tell!*

*Go, tell!*, says the angel to the women. *Go tell!*, says Jesus to the disciples. *Go tell!*, says God to all God's People. Go, tell of the Empty Tomb. Go, tell of the Risen Savior. Go, tell of the death of death. Go, tell of the promise of eternal life. Go, tell the infinite joy of this Resurrection Day ... and raise the Sun of Easter ↓ upon a weary world.



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