

SERMON FOR EASTER DAY B (for children of all ages)  
PREACHED APRIL 1, 2018 AT ZION LUTHERAN, ENOLA PA  
TEXT: Mark 16.1-8

4 eggs of varying sizes:

Egg #1 – Palm branch (representing Palm Sunday, Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem)

Egg #2 – Communion cup (Jesus shared bread and wine with his disciples on the night before he died, Maundy Thursday)

Egg #3 – Cross (Jesus was crucified and died on the cross on Good Friday)

Egg #4 – Stone (that was placed to seal Jesus' tomb by Joseph of Arimathea)

Egg #5 – Empty! (except for a piece of paper that says, "He has been raised! He is going ahead of you to Galilee. You'll see him there. Go and tell the others!")

Retell the story according to Mark:

- Women went to the tomb to anoint his body
- They were worried about how to get into the tomb because of the large stone in front of the entrance
- When they get there, they see that the stone has been rolled away
- They go inside and see a young man dressed in white who tells them not to be afraid. He knows that they are looking for Jesus, but assures them that he is not there. He has been raised. Go and tell the others.

They never see or hear from Jesus directly, only this man. And as you can imagine, they were so terrified by what they saw and heard that they didn't say anything to anyone!

Well, that's not really true, is it? Because we **know** – over 2000 years after it happened - that Jesus was raised from the dead. So the women must have eventually told someone, right? And that's the good news of today's story. Aside from the best part of today, which is that Jesus rose from the dead to save us from our sins – the women eventually got up the courage to tell others about what they had seen and heard.

So I wonder, do you have the courage to go and tell someone what you've seen and heard here today? I hope so!

We are here today because Jesus didn't stay dead. The tomb is empty – barren, blank and bare. The truth is, Jesus wouldn't be caught dead in a tomb! He prefers to be alive and walking among us, implanting himself in our hearts, nourishing us at the table of grace. Mark's gospel doesn't have

an end because the story of Jesus isn't over. Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again!

You see, the story of what God is doing in and through Jesus isn't over at the empty tomb. It's only just getting started. Resurrection isn't a conclusion, it's an invitation. The empty tomb is only the beginning of the story, and if you wonder why there is still so much distress and pain and fear in the world, it's because God's not done yet. Mark's gospel ending, then, is an invitation to us to take up **our** part of the story – not only to “go and tell” about Jesus' resurrection and the forgiveness of our sins, but to meet Jesus in places where we least expect him and to be part of God's continuing salvation story for all people. We, too, might be fearful, but God has entrusted this wonderful news with us, so we are compelled to go and tell others.

Let us pray: Thank you, God, for raising your son from death! Thank you for forgiving our sins, now and always. Thank you for this Easter celebration, for today we learned just how much you loved us. May we strive to love you in return. AMEN