

He is Risen!: Mark 16:1–8

At the first opportunity, as soon as the Sabbath was over, the women, including Mary Magdalene, showed their love and devotion for Jesus by going to his tomb. They were going to anoint Jesus' body 'very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise' (v.2). They were wondering if they could find anyone to roll away the stone from the tomb's entrance. This would have been very difficult once the stone was in place in the groove cut out for it.

However, they needn't have worried, as the job had already been done! They bravely entered the tomb where they were confronted, not by a dead body, but by 'a young man dressed in a white robe' (v.5). Matthew tells us this was an angel (Matt. 28:2).

"Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'" (Mark 16:6–7)

What amazing news! No wonder they were 'trembling and bewildered' (v.8). "The resurrection proved that [Jesus] was vindicated by God and therefore none less than the Messiah, the Son of God he claimed to be." (D.A. Carson, *The Gospel According to John*, p. 632)

And for us, as Christians, there is a 'sure and certain hope' beyond the grave!

*See, what a morning, gloriously bright
With the dawning of hope in Jerusalem
Folded the grave clothes, tomb filled with light,
As the angels announce, 'Christ is risen!'*

*See God's salvation plan
Wrought in love, borne in pain, paid in sacrifice
Fulfilled in Christ, the man,
For he lives, Christ is risen from the dead!*

(Keith Getty and Stuart Townend)

Wishing you all a truly blessed Easter!

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