



Sharing

Circle Up: Get settled; Reach out to anyone we expected to be here but isn't.

Opening Prayer: Almighty God, who at dawn on the first day of the week revealed the risen Lord to the women at the tomb and sent them to proclaim the good news. Grant that we, who celebrate the living Christ, may respond with joy and praise. Amen.

The Question: Go around the circle answering, "Where have you seen God this week?"

Studying

Scripture: Matthew 28:1-10 After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the tomb. ²Look, there was a great earthquake, for an angel from the Lord came down from heaven. Coming to the stone, he rolled it away and sat on it. ³Now his face was like lightning and his clothes as white as snow. ⁴The guards were so terrified of him that they shook with fear and became like dead men. ⁵But the angel said to the women, "Don't be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He isn't here, because he's been raised from the dead, just as he said. Come, see the place where they laid him. ⁷Now hurry, go and tell his disciples, 'He's been raised from the dead. He's going on ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there.' I've given the message to you." ⁸With great fear and excitement, they hurried away from the tomb and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹But Jesus met them and greeted them. They came and grabbed his feet and worshipped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, "Don't be afraid. Go and tell my brothers that I am going into Galilee. They will see me there."

Reflection Questions:

- Describe your Easter celebration traditions. Do you eat certain foods? Attend worship? Does or did your family gather for Easter? Did or do you color Easter eggs and hide baskets?
- Matthew's account of the resurrection of Jesus is full of supernatural events and drama. Read Matthew 28:1-10 and identify the dramatic events.
- Why does both the angel and Jesus tell the women not to be afraid?
- If you were tasked by Jesus to go tell the disciples what you discovered at the empty tomb, what would be the "lead" for your story?
- What is the hope of the resurrection?
- As disciples, we are called to share the good news of Jesus' resurrection. (Matthew 28: 19-20) What would be your "lead" in telling another person about Jesus?

Praying

Pray for each other in silence or aloud.
At the end of the silent prayer, pray the Lord's Prayer together.

Encouraging

What's your next step on the discipleship path?
What can we do to help each other?
When are we gathering next?