



Mid-Week Checkpoint

Week of April 4, 2021

Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome were prepared to perform an ordinary task by going to Jesus' tomb to anoint his body.

- What do you think they talked about as they walked together? What did they expect?

When they arrived, the ordinary suddenly became extraordinary. The stone they planned to roll away had already been moved.

- We have all had "stones" in our lives – things that may keep us from experiencing new life in Christ. It could be a broken relationship, challenges in our vocation, and illness, etc. What "stones" need to be rolled away in your life?
- Describe a time when you expected God to do something one way, but He surprised you with a completely different scenario.

The young man said, *"7 But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you."* ⁸ So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid. (Mark 16:7-8, NRSV)

The women could have talked themselves out of going to the tomb because they didn't know how they were going to roll the stone away. They went anyway.

They realized Jesus was not in the tomb. They entered anyway.

When they saw the young man, they were filled with terror and amazement. They could have run away, but they talked with the young man anyway.

The ordinary had become extraordinary and the women stuck with it. They didn't understand what was going on in this unknown, new, and unexplainable circumstance. They chose to enter the emptiness so they could consider the resurrection.

- What keeps you from entering the empty places in your life so you can experience resurrection?

Richard Rohr says, "We cannot attain the presence of God because we're already totally in the presence of God. What's absent is awareness."

- What steps can you take to be more aware of God in your ordinary, everyday life?

Questions for All Ages –

What helps you be more aware of God's presence?

Prayer – Holy One, help us be aware of the extraordinary experiences You offer in the ordinary activities of our lives. Teach us to pay attention. Amen.