

Holy Saturday (April 8, 2023) Sermon
St. David's Episcopal Church
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“Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.”

When you lose someone you love, it takes your breath away. Life goes on, but it is as if you are behind a curtain, watching life happen, but not really in the world. The pain caused by the death of a loved one is real. Sometimes we can distract ourselves from this feeling with the busy-ness of funeral preparations. But eventually the emptiness and pain find us.

But for those who loved Jesus, there was no time for distraction. His body was taken down from the cross and laid to rest in a hurry. I think about this as I picture the two Mary's sitting across from Jesus' tomb as Joseph walked away. There was no time for being together with his disciples. No time to process the events of the last few days of Jesus' life. In fact, his disciples were nowhere to be found. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary are left to wait and watch alone.

Now what? It is like the day after the funeral when family and friends have all gone home and you are left alone with your grief. The world feels empty and hopeless.

How long did the Mary's wait at Jesus' tomb? Surely they had heard that Jesus had told his disciples that he would suffer crucifixion and death before rising again on the third day. As they sat together, did the women talk about the time Jesus had called Lazarus out of the tomb after he had been dead for four days?

Did the Marys have faith in Jesus' resurrection? Did Pilate believe that Jesus would rise again on the third day and that is why he sent the guards to secure the tomb? Do you have faith in Jesus?

Do you? Do you have faith that the man that died on the cross is our one Lord, the only Son of God, true God from true God? Or are you waiting and watching and wondering?

If you do have faith that Jesus is the Messiah, then there is no time for waiting and wondering and watching a tomb that you know is going to be empty tomorrow morning. It is time to break through the curtain of death and live into life anew.

Why wait to live into this new covenant with God? Why not start TODAY to follow Jesus' new commandment to **"Love one another as I have loved you."** As believers in Jesus' resurrection, this is our mission. Our compass for the life that Jesus would have us to live.

"Love one another as I have loved you." So simple to say. So hard to do! Especially, it seems, in today's political climate. But Jesus didn't just love the people who were "easy" or "politically correct" to love. Jesus showed us how to love the unlovable and how to care for those we love.

So today, don't wait for the resurrection, but prepare and plan to participate with the risen Christ. Let us love one another as Christ loved us today and every day. We have faith, so why wait?