

Hope College Campus Ministries

HOLY WEEK DEVOTIONALS

Featuring the artwork of Otto Dix



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Hope COLLEGE



All artworks by Otto Dix, courtesy of The Kruizenga Art Museum

2026

HOLY WEEK

ABOUT

Welcome to the 2026 Holy Week Devotional from Hope College Campus Ministries!

Over the course of the next week, Christians throughout the world will commemorate the final days of Jesus' life. It is our hope that this set of prayers, reflections, and songs, along with a curated collection of artworks from Otto Dix, will help guide you not only towards the cross of Christ, but to his miraculous and magnificent resurrection as well!

The joy of Christ's triumph over death is foundational to our hope as Christians, and yet, something we appreciate about Otto Dix's art is its seeming insistence that we do not skip over the rougher, smudge-laden moments still taking shape on the way to the cross.

Our invitation to you this week is just that - to not look away, and rather, to look even deeper into these events, in all of their emotion, trouble, and glory. We believe and hope in the full story of Jesus Christ. May we journey together with him through it all.

DEVOTIONAL LISTENING

Each day this week, we will be sharing individual songs, related to the specific themes of the day. For a full Holy Week playlist (available on Spotify), [follow this link](#).



The Entry Into Jerusalem - Otto Dix (1960)

MARCH 29

PALM SUNDAY

SCRIPTURE

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

“Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

Matthew 21:1-11 (NRSV)

REFLECTION - *Bruce Benedict*

When Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, the city erupted. Matthew tells us that “the whole city was in turmoil” and raised up a collective cry: “Who is this?” (Matthew 21:10).

It is the final antiphon of the scene. The crowd shouts, the branches wave, the cloaks cover the road, and yet beneath all the noise rises the question that animates the entire moment: Who is this?

Some answer quickly: “This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth in Galilee” (Matthew 21:11). It is an accurate answer — but perhaps not the whole answer.

The crowds see a prophet. Others see a teacher. Some see a miracle worker. Still others hope he might be a political liberator. But Palm Sunday is only the beginning of Holy Week, and the question “Who is this?” will echo through the days ahead.

Who is this who receives the praise of children in the temple?

Who is this who raises the dead?

Who is this who received the anointing of Mary of Bethany?

Who is this who stands silent before his accusers?

Who is this who carries a cross outside the city walls?

The question reverberates through every day of this long week even to a Roman centurion standing at the foot of the cross: “Truly this was the Son of God” (Matthew 27:54).

Palm Sunday reminds us that faith often begins with a question before it becomes a confession. The crowds sensed that something extraordinary was happening in their streets, but they were still discerning what it meant.

And so the question of Jerusalem becomes our question as well:
Who is this?

As we begin Holy Week, we walk with Jesus through the unfolding story. We listen, we watch, and we pray that by the time we arrive at Easter morning, our answer will be deeper, clearer, and more faithful.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, as we enter Holy Week, help us to see you more clearly. In the crowds and confusion of our world, teach us to ask again the ancient question: Who is this? And by your Spirit, lead us to confess with joy that you are the King who comes in the name of the Lord. Amen.

DEVOTIONAL LISTENING

[All Glory Laud and Honor - Green Carpet Players](#)



Make Disciples Of All Nations - Otto Dix (1960)

MARCH 30

MONDAY

SCRIPTURE

When Jesus entered the temple courts, he began to drive out those who were selling. “It is written,” he said to them, “My house will be a house of prayer”; but you have made it ‘a den of robbers.’”

Every day he was teaching at the temple. But the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the leaders among the people were trying to kill him. Yet they could not find any way to do it, because all the people hung on his words.”

Luke 19:45-48 (NIV)

REFLECTION - *Matt Margaron*

It's Monday. Like most Mondays, the week ahead brings both anticipation and a to-do list that grows quicker than the free time in our calendars. It's tempting to put our heads down and get about our business. And yet on this Monday, I wonder if we would allow our thoughts, calendars, and lives to be disrupted by the words of Jesus.

Today we continue in Holy Week. A week where we get a unique opportunity to reflect on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. Our reflection for today brings us into the temple courts of Jerusalem as Jesus enters during Passover. Mystified by the crowds turning this place of prayer and worship into a market of exploitation and consumption, Jesus is dismayed.

And in this moment, Jesus creates a holy disruption to the status quo. He flips over tables, drives out the exploiters, and calls for people to change the way they are going about their lives and business.

History shows...

...when Jesus walked into the room, people turned and paid attention.

...when Jesus spoke, people stopped and listened.

His life and words were too important to ignore and go about your day.

Some were threatened by his life and rose up to kill him.

Others were captivated by his words and longed for his power to transform their lives.

But no one was able to keep going about business as usual.

On this day, the holy disruption of Jesus changed everything.

I love the last line of this passage: "all the people hung on his words."

As we enter into this week, I wonder if we might take the time to hang on the words of Jesus and allow him to disrupt our status quo.

Put another way...

Stop what you are doing.

Pay attention and listen.

Jesus has entered the room.

And he has come to disrupt what we have all come to accept as normal.

Stop selling. Cease living a life defined by consumption.

Start praying. Begin living a life centered around prayer.

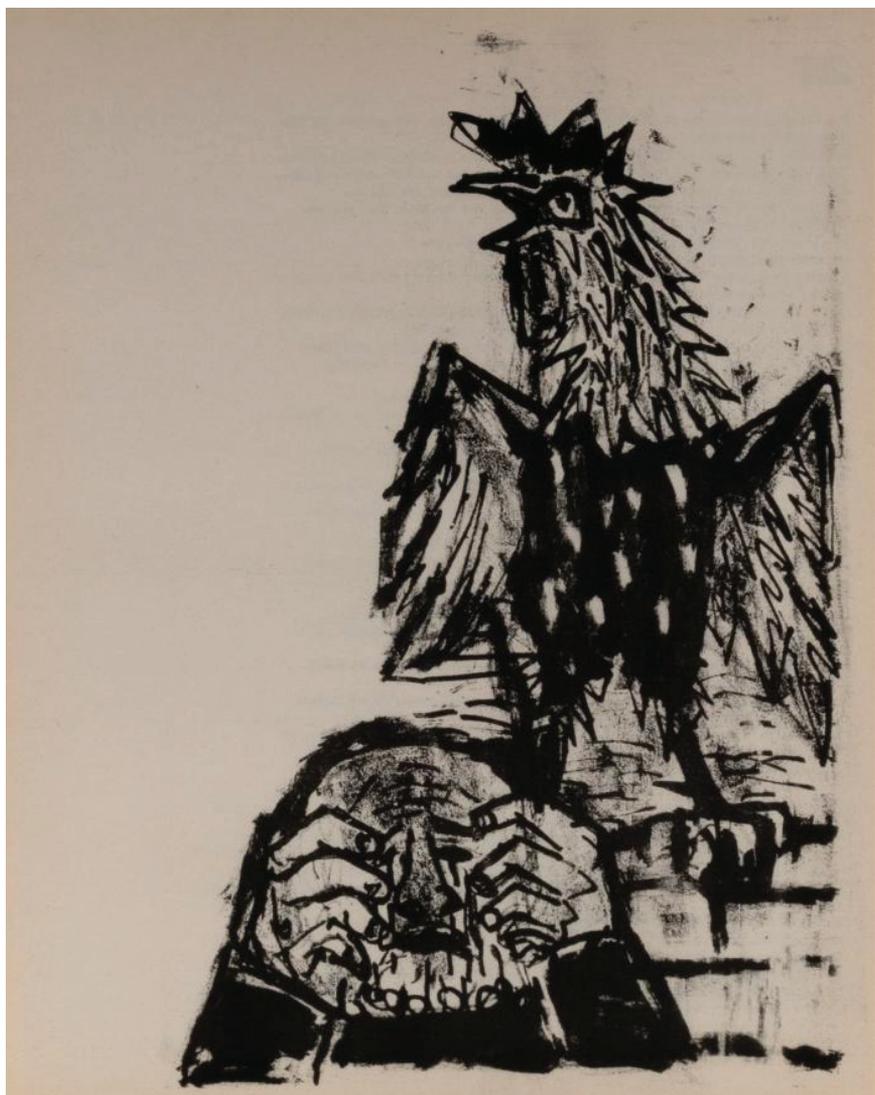
PRAYER

Dear Father,

On this Monday, may we all stop and listen in order to welcome the transformational power of Jesus' holy disruptions in our life and community.

DEVOTIONAL LISTENING

[In this Forty Days - Bellwether Arts](#)



Peter's Betrayal - Otto Dix (1960)

MARCH 31

TUESDAY

SCRIPTURE

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake — for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly.

And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

Mark 13:32-37 (NRSV)

REFLECTION - *Krista Beukema*

As Jesus saw his final days approaching, the disciples picked up on cues that the tone was changing. Maybe the air grew heavy as Jesus reflected, “all will be thrown down,” looking upon the temple and considering his own life. Later, sitting on the Mount of Olives facing the very temple of which Jesus foretold its destruction, Peter, James, John, and Andrew decided to press in further: “Tell us,” they asked under hushed breath, “when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?” (Mark 13:3-4).

While Jesus didn’t answer their question of “when,” what he did say, several times, was: “Keep awake.” Or as other translations put it,

“Keep watch,” “stay at your post,” or “be on the alert.”

As a mom of three who is in a new (and welcome) season of being able to leave my kids at home alone for short periods of time, I smile as I relate to Jesus’ departing instructions. When you want your children to remember something, you need to say it more than once. “I’ll be back in an hour. No friends in the house, ok? Message me if you need to. Are you listening?” Confirm and repeat.

Like children, we too need repetition and reminders. In Mark 13 alone, Jesus repeats phrases such as “keep awake” and “watch out” eight times. Yet, hearing isn’t the same as doing. In the very next chapter, Jesus finds the disciples asleep in his greatest hour of need — as he labors under the weight of his impending arrest and crucifixion. He reproaches Peter, “Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour?” (Mark 14:37).

How about you? Are you awake and at your post? Let us pray for the awareness to see his work in our lives, to join him in it, and to anticipate his coming return.

PRAYER

Father, wake me up. Let me shake off everything that is distracting me from communion with you, and let me awaken to the reality of your presence with me even now. May I be alert to the movement of your Spirit and walk in step with you. I look forward to the day of your return, Jesus, when I will be in your presence forevermore. Amen.

DEVOTIONAL LISTENING

[Where We Are - Urban Doxology](#)



The Baptism Of Jesus - Otto Dix (1960)

APRIL 1

WEDNESDAY

SCRIPTURE

Now while Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment, and she poured it on his head as he sat at the table. But when the disciples saw it, they were angry and said, “Why this waste? For this ointment could have been sold for a large sum and the money given to the poor.” But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, “Why do you trouble the woman? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. By pouring this ointment on my body she has prepared me for burial. Truly I tell you, wherever this good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.”

Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, “What will you give me if I betray him to you?” They paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

Matthew 26:6-16 (NRSV)

REFLECTION - *Jill Nelson*

Wednesday of Holy Week is often called “Silent Wednesday” because the Gospels say little about what Jesus did that day. Many believe he remained in Bethany, resting with friends who loved him.

At a dinner there, a woman poured expensive perfume on Jesus in an

act of costly devotion. The disciples called it wasteful, but Jesus called it beautiful. Soon after, Judas Iscariot went to the chief priests and agreed to betray Jesus for thirty pieces of silver — the price of a slave.

Two responses to the same Savior.

One poured out what was most precious in love.

One poured out a heart of greed and turned away.

Jesus knew what was coming. The cross was near. Yet in the quiet, he allowed himself to be honored, anointed, prepared. Meanwhile, betrayal moved quietly in the background.

We tend to imagine betrayal as dramatic and intentional. But more often it is subtle — a slow drift of the heart. It happens when our priorities quietly rearrange themselves. When our schedules, ambitions, and anxieties begin to shape us more than his presence does.

As pressure rises with assignments, practices, research, deadlines, expectations, it can be easy to grasp for security, recognition, advancement. Not because we despise Jesus, but because we are tired, driven, or afraid. Over time, he can become one more part of the life we are building rather than the center of it.

The woman's gift seemed reckless, but love like this rarely looks tidy. She believed Jesus was worth her most valuable possession. Her focus was not what she might lose, but who he was.

On this break from campus rhythms, consider taking intentional silence. Go for a walk. Sit in a quiet room. Reclaim the early morning before your phone lights up.

Imagine gathering what you are striving to secure. Maybe it is your future, your reputation, your relationships, or some sort of success. Place all that in a jar. Feel its weight in your hands. Now bring that jar to Jesus. Not carefully unscrewing the lid, but breaking it open. Pouring it all out.

The beauty we long for comes through surrender. The most meaningful lives are poured out.

Today, by the power of the Holy Spirit, choose something beautiful.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus,
In the quiet, search my heart.
Show me where I am holding onto something that I need to surrender.
Teach me to love you with wholehearted devotion.
In this silence, draw me close to your beautiful heart.
Amen.

DEVOTIONAL LISTENING

[I Call Your Name \(Psalm 119\) - Mac Meader](#)



The Last Supper - Otto Dix (1960)

APRIL 2

MAUNDY THURSDAY

SCRIPTURE

When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. And he said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God . . . And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.”

LUKE 22:14-16,19 (NIV)

REFLECTION - *Jennifer Ryden*

Every time I read the gospel account of the Last Supper, I am deeply moved. Of all the things Jesus might have done, different ways he could have said goodbye before he suffered, Jesus gathered those he loved and shared one last meal with them. He was ‘eager’ to be with them around the table in the breaking of bread, and he asked them to remember him when they broke bread after he was gone. I bet that night Jesus looked at his friends and imagined all the future meals they would share, and he smiled.

I love the Lord’s Supper. In truth, I love any supper to which I’m invited that I do not need to prepare. Given the choice, a good meal with friends would be how I would spend my last moments. How about you?

Last month during his visit to Hope, Gavin Ortlund said the Com-

munion table is the place where we don't just talk about the gospel, we taste it. Perhaps that's why many years ago we decided to serve Communion every Sunday night at the Gathering. Week after week, we come to worship as hungry and thirsty people, and at his table of grace a miracle happens: Christ feeds us.

Every time I approach the table, I hear Christ saying, I have eagerly desired to be with you in this way — to forgive you, serve you, nourish and sustain you, comfort and uphold you. At the table, we bring our life to Christ and he shares his life with us, so that week after week God might conform us more and more to the image of Christ. How this happens exactly, I cannot say. After all, sacrament means mystery. But that it happens, I can testify.

In his book on the Lord's Supper titled *Remembrance, Communion, and Hope*, J. Todd Billings writes that, "Celebrating the Lord's Supper can change our lives." It changed mine. Will you let it change yours? You are invited to the Table of the Lord. Christ is the host and you are the guest. He's so eager for your presence, and there is more than enough for all!

PRAYER

Lord, some days we find it hard to believe that you shed your blood and crucified your body for us. Thank you for tangible reminders to strengthen our faith as we journey home to you. "My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips" (Psalm 63:5). Amen.

DEVOTIONAL LISTENING

[Who is Like the Lord our God? \(Psalm 113\)](#)
[Wendell Kimbrough/Bruce Benedict](#)



The King Of The Jews - Otto Dix (1960)

APRIL 3

GOOD FRIDAY

SCRIPTURE

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You say so." Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you." But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

MARK 15:1-5 (NRSV)

REFLECTION - *Charly Peña*

Good Friday stands as one of the darkest days in human history. In the Gospel of Mark, chapter 15, we witness Jesus betrayed, falsely accused, flogged, mocked, and crucified. What is most striking is not his suffering, but his silence. As he endured injustice and humiliation, he did not defend himself. In this, he fulfilled the prophecy of the book of Isaiah 53:7: "Like a lamb that is led to the slaughter... he did not open his mouth."

Jesus' silence was not weakness; it was obedient surrender to the Father's redemptive plan. While human instinct pushes us to defend ourselves and repay evil for evil, Christ reveals a better way. Instead of retaliation, he chose forgiveness. Instead of hatred, he embodied perfect love. On the cross, he absorbed violence rather than returning it.

This challenges us deeply. Following Jesus means embracing a cruciform life — responding to offense with grace and to injustice with trust in God. Such a response does not come naturally. Yet scripture reminds us that God gives us a spirit of power, love, and self-control (2 Timothy 1:7). Through the Holy Spirit, we are empowered to reflect Christ’s character even in painful moments.

On that day, it appeared that the Light of the world had been extinguished. Rejected by his own and condemned to death, Jesus hung beneath a darkened sky. But as the Gospel of John declares, “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it” (John 1:5).

Good Friday is sorrowful, but it is not final. The cross was not defeat — it is the doorway to victory. Through Christ’s suffering comes our salvation; through His death comes our life.

PRAYER

Heavenly, loving, and gracious Father, I thank you for your steadfast and unconditional love. Thank you for sending your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to take our place and bear the punishment we deserved as sinners. Lord Jesus, thank you for revealing the way of perfect love, humility, and forgiveness through your suffering and sacrifice.

Holy Spirit, we are grateful for your abiding presence and guidance. Strengthen us to follow in the footsteps of Christ. Teach us to exercise self-control, to love you above all things, to love our neighbors sincerely, and even to love our enemies. Form in us the character of Christ, that our lives may reflect His light in a dark world. In the mighty and holy name of Jesus, Amen.

DEVOTIONAL LISTENING

[Final Call \(Isaiah 53\) - Hope College Worship](#)



Sacrificial Lamb - Otto Dix (1960)

APRIL 4

HOLY SATURDAY

SCRIPTURE

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph, who also was himself a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, "Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise again.' Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise, his disciples may go and steal him away and tell the people, 'He has been raised from the dead,' and the last deception would be worse than the first." Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can." So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

Matthew 27:57-66 (NRSV)

REFLECTION - *Shomari Tate*

Today is the day when we are in the middle.

In the middle of life and death. Yesterday was the death on the cross,

and tomorrow there is the resurrection.

But today... today is quiet. Too quiet. The silence is deafening.

Joseph of Arimathea has placed Jesus in the tomb, fulfilling the prophecy that he would be buried among the rich. A stone has been rolled in front of hope that seems to close us off from any divine relief from this world. The disciples are not preaching. They are not strategizing. They are not worshiping. They are grieving.

Holy Saturday is the day when heaven feels quiet. A day we usually pay little attention to.

It is the day when promises feel buried, hope feels far off, and dreams feel foolish.

It is the day when your chest feels heavy, and your prayers feel unanswered.

This year, Hope College knows something particularly personal about Holy Saturday.

We lost Dr. Fred Johnson suddenly and unexpectedly last month. Dr. Johnson was a history professor. He was a scholar. He was a giant of a man. I call him our community's lion. For many of you, he wasn't just a professor of U.S. history; he was someone you could depend on when things felt unsteady. Dr. Johnson was a voice of wisdom. He was a builder of minds. He was a cultivator of courage.

And now there is silence in the arena where our lion once roared.

Understand this: Holy Saturday is not denial. It is not pretending everything is fine. It is not rushing to Easter. It is God's divine reminder to us to take our time.

Holy Saturday lets us say, "This hurts... this really hurts."

Think about it, the disciples knew the promises. Jesus had told them

resurrection was coming, but that knowledge did not cancel the grief and trauma that came from watching their Savior's execution.

Whether fortunately or unfortunately, faith does not cancel grief for us either.

The tomb where Jesus was buried is real, loss is real, tragedy is real, and absence is real. That's the bad news in this devotional. All those things that take our breath away in life are very real things. Some of us are very acquainted with the loss of something or someone in our lives.

But hear the good news of the holy mystery of this day:

Even when the disciples could not see Him, Jesus was still working.

PRAYER

Holy Father, today, may we sit in the silence. May we weep honestly. May we wait, as a community, for the glory of the resurrected King because we know that Jesus is coming.
Amen.

DEVOTIONAL LISTENING

[Only You - Keiko Ying/Cardiphonia](#)



The Angel At The Tomb - Otto Dix (1960)

APRIL 5

RESURRECTION SUNDAY

SCRIPTURE

Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."' Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

John 20:15-18 (NRSV)

REFLECTION - *Nathan Hart*

Mary's heart must've been beating out of her chest. The emotional rollercoaster swooped her from the depths of sorrow to the heights of joy. Jesus had just revealed his resurrected self to her — surprise! — and instructed her to go and tell. Go and tell the disciples the most amazing, history-altering, flabbergasting news ever delivered from one person to another. Jesus is alive!

Matthew's gospel tells us that she "left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples" (Matthew 20:8). If we could hear directly from Mary about her experience in this moment, I imagine she'd tell us that "fear and great joy" is an understatement

for how she felt. In my favorite children's Bible, The Jesus Storybook Bible, the episode with Mary running from the tomb is entitled God's Wonderful Surprise. As she ran, the author surmises, "she didn't even feel her feet touch the ground!"

Jesus entrusted the first full gospel message not to Peter or John who had been at the tomb moments earlier, but to Mary. What a privilege! And he has entrusted proclamation of the same message to men and women ever since. What this means is that we all have the privilege of sharing the most amazing, history-altering, flabbergasting news to the world.

On this Easter Sunday, I hope we can feel even a glimpse of the awe and joy that Mary felt on resurrection morning. May God call our names and say to us, "Go and tell!"

PRAYER

Holy Spirit, please stir our hearts to have a deeper sense of awe and joy as we receive and proclaim the gospel: the good news that you died, you rose, and you reign. Thank you for the privilege of carrying that message to the world. Amen.

DEVOTIONAL LISTENING

[Christ is Risen, Alleluia - Bellwether Arts](#)

