



## A Final Gift

*When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. 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.' 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: 1-8*

**T**hey came to give him the final gift that they could offer—to anoint his body for burial. Because of the onset of the Sabbath there had been no time to do this on Friday. They had waited through the long hours of the night and day and yet another night. When they arrived at the tomb, they were astonished to find the large stone sealing it rolled to the side. Upon entering they were even more alarmed by the sight of a young man dressed in white sitting where the Lord's body ought to have been. Jesus, who was crucified, has been raised from death. He is not here in the place of your expectation, in the tomb, but, as he told you, he has gone ahead of you to Galilee. Go, tell his disciples that he waits for them there.

And what did they do? They fled in terror and awe, but “they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.” This seems a strange way for a Gospel to end. There are two alternate endings printed in most Bible beyond this abrupt conclusion, but perhaps this was precisely the way Mark intended for the gospel to end. Jesus goes before you. Will you follow him? Will you share the good news?

### Prayer

Risen Lord, lead me into this day that I might live for you and in my living show forth your love and your life. Amen.