



April 5, 2026

'The Doorway We Don't Expect'

Matthew 28:1-10

Easter morning often feels triumphant and clear. Yet Matthew's account of the resurrection reveals something more honest and more human. The women arrive at the tomb expecting death, not new life. Instead, they encounter an earthquake, an angel, an empty grave, and a command: "Do not be afraid... go and tell." They leave with fear and great joy mixed together. The empty tomb is not a resting place. It is a doorway.

This sermon begins with a personal reflection on standing in doorways—hesitating between what feels familiar and what lies ahead. Early in ministry, security felt safer than stepping fully into the unknown. That instinct is deeply human. We often want resurrection hope without surrendering to resurrection obedience. We want assurance that Christ is alive, yet we hesitate to follow where he sends us. We prefer what is manageable, even when it confines us.

The women at the tomb face this same tension. The problem in the text is not disbelief. It is fear in the face of movement. Resurrection means everything has changed. The future is no longer predictable. Christ is alive—and going ahead of them. That is both good news and unsettling news.

The heart of the Gospel in this passage is that Jesus meets them on the road. He does not wait at the tomb. He goes before them. Where we hesitate, Christ has already gone ahead faithfully. Grace comes first. Identity comes before action. The women are not sent to create resurrection but to follow where resurrection already stands.

Because Jesus is alive and already ahead of us, we can move forward in trust rather than staying anchored in fear. The invitation is simple: when standing in life's doorways, pray, "Risen Christ, you are already ahead of me." The empty tomb is not the end of the story. It is where the story opens. Christ lives. And we are invited to follow.