

## **Raised from the Dead**

### **Easter**

Matthew 28:1-10

Next Steps

#### **OPENING PRAYER:**

Creator of life, in raising Christ Jesus up, through, out of and beyond the chains of death, you opened for us the way to eternal and abundant life. May our alleluias on this day float high above the ceiling of what we think we know and transcend to the heaven of what we believe — and thus live.

Raise us up!

Renew our lives!

Resurrect our dreams!

Through Jesus Christ our Living Savior,

Amen.

—Karen Turner

#### **BREAKING THE ICE:**

- What did you agree or disagree with in the sermon this week?
- Was there something new that you learned this week?
- If you could talk to anyone in heaven, who would it be?

#### **WRESTLING WITH THE WORD:**

Read Matthew 28:1-10.

- What are your initial thoughts on this passage?
- What do you think the women were hoping to find when they arrived at the tomb?
- What do you think it was like for the women to bump into Jesus? What might have their emotions been? What expressions might they have had on their faces? What might they have said that wasn't recorded in the Scriptures?
- Imagine yourself into the text. With whom do you most relate? Why?
- How is this telling of the resurrection different in Matthew than the accounts in Mark, Luke, and John?

#### **NEXT STEPS:**

- In what ways have you experienced Jesus in your life recently?
- As an activity- commit to capturing daily reflections in a journal (paper, computer, phone. . .) of how you experience Jesus throughout each day.
- With whom can you share the good news (the ways in which you have experienced Jesus in your life recently) you know in the resurrected Christ?

#### **PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:**

Christ is Risen: The world below lies desolate

Christ is Risen: The spirits of evil are fallen

Christ is Risen: The angels of God are rejoicing

Christ is Risen: The tombs of the dead are empty

Christ is Risen indeed from the dead, the first of the sleepers,

Glory and power are his forever and ever.

— St. Hippolytus of Rome