

On Friday, this same group of women from today's reading watched Jesus die on a cross. They followed Joseph as he took Jesus and laid him in a new tomb. Knowing that the Sabbath was coming, they hurried home to prepare the spices for Jesus' burial before resting on the Sabbath.

I cannot even imagine what they were feeling on that particular Sabbath. The Sabbath is a day of rest and being with God but were they really able to do that? They just watched Jesus die in a very humiliating and painful way. Even though he was laid in a tomb, they still had work to do because they needed to go back to the tomb to prepare his body with the spices. And so they were probably dreading the next morning.

I imagine that they forced their selves out of their homes on that first Easter morning and slowly walked to the tomb. Their anxiety turned into confusion when they first entered the tomb and found Jesus was missing and then into fear as the two angels appeared next to them. The angels reminded the women of what Jesus had told them and so they ran to the disciples to tell them about what they had experienced.

Now the disciples did not believe what the women had testified to and so Peter got up and ran to the tomb. After he looked inside and saw everything as the women had said, he went home amazed at what had happened. Peter saw and believed.

Now here's some questions for you. "Do you believe this?" That's the ultimate question of Easter. Do you believe the resurrection story?

Do you believe with all your heart that Jesus Christ is the son of God who came from heaven to live on this earth 2000 years ago?

Do you believe that when he died on the Cross, he died in your place, paying for your sins?

Do you believe that on Easter morning, he rose from the grave by conquering death and the devil once and for all?

If you believe all that God accomplished through Christ Jesus, then you live in the promise of forgiveness and the hope of eternal life. This is what today is all about. God loves us so much that HE gave HIS only son who died and rose from the dead so that we may live. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!