

I have seen the Lord.

While it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the tombstone had been removed from the entrance.

Quickly, she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciples. She said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him."

She was frightened and couldn't believe what she saw at the tomb.

She came back to the tomb with the disciples.

There they saw the strips of linen, but they couldn't see Jesus there.

She was very disappointed and crying there by herself.

And then Jesus appeared to Mary and comforted her.

Mary's testimony was, "I have seen the Lord."

Mary was the woman who loved Jesus so much and dared to do anything for the Lord, returning from the tomb and crying to other disciples.

When other disciples were doubtful, wondered, and couldn't understand what was happening,

Mary said to them, "The body of our Lord is not in the tomb; he is risen, and I have seen him, and I have talked to him."

They regarded what Mary said as nonsense.

They thought that the Easter proclamation was unbelievable and nonsense.

But Mary proclaimed that she had seen the Lord.

On Easter Sunday morning, Mary delivers the Easter message "I have seen the Lord".

She makes the Easter message simple and short on the basis of her experience.

She doesn't deliver a profound, long, and theological message; something that sounds like a professional report.

But she delivers the simple message. Sometimes, we try to explain and try to give too much information, TMI, and we try to rationalise our thoughts and justify our actions.

But she doesn't have much explanation of how Jesus was raised, a story of this and that, I did that and these things and that, so Jesus was raised, and I have seen him.

She didn't say any of her achievements, because what I have done, because I was faithful and great, I have seen the Lord.

She didn't provide excessive details about Jesus' resurrection. She refrained from sharing unnecessary information that could lead us away from the message.

Mary simply said, "I have seen the Lord."

Mary's testimony of the resurrection is a first-person story, not a third-person one. Our faith confession and belief in the resurrection are based on our own personal testimonies.

When Mary said, "I have seen the Lord," it means Jesus' resurrection is truth through her witness. And through her witness, she shared that with other disciples who had doubt, fears, and wonders.

So that through Mary's invitation, other disciples also experienced, "I have seen the Lord" in their lives.

I have seen the Lord. This simple sentence is pointing to us that in the midst of all that seems visible is death or death experience, I have seen Jesus resurrected, and I have seen new life.

The resurrection is more than just healing that Jesus performed; it is more than just Jesus' touching moment. But it is new life. It is love in the face of hate. It is forgiveness when there was revenge.

The resurrection is not only the promise of life after death.

Maybe that would be enough for some people. How about you? Are you happy about the resurrection being only the promise of life after death, and you don't care about the present life?

The resurrection is more than the promise of life after death. But the resurrection of Jesus is the assurance that God will always reveal to us that there is an empty tomb of Jesus.

When things are surrounded by dead places, sealed by stones, and when hope seems lost, when things are dark and fearful, God rolls those stones away and revealing the empty tomb.

When we are surrounded by negative thoughts, a corruptive way of life, and what we see is the end of hope, when we need lots of endurance and patience, Jesus reveals to us his empty tomb and proves that he conquered death. There is nothing impossible for him.

When Mary testifies that I have seen the empty tomb, what we see here is Mary's belief in action. Quickly, she ran to other disciples without any doubt and witnessed her testimony of what she had seen at the graveyard.

So that Mary made her testimony of the resurrection a way of life. Her witness became a living testament to other disciples. And she demonstrated Jesus' message through her actions.

Perhaps we can ask ourselves some questions: will the resurrection continue to roll the stones of the tomb in our lives? Is the resurrection promise within us? Is the resurrection a way of life for us?

Therefore, the resurrection of Jesus invites us to confess it through our words and actions.

We are here this morning not only to believe in the resurrection in our hearts, but also to look for the resurrection moment in our lives and to be willing to say to others, "I have seen the Lord."

There are too many tombs that are sealed around us. There are too many dark, fearful, death experiences around us that stop us from believing, stop us from confessing the resurrection of Jesus, the resurrection of our lives for both the present and eternal life.

Jesus has come to show us the empty tomb. He has come to show us that the stones that stop us from believing can be rolled away. There is life, there is light for us.

We have come across the powerful words of the Lord this morning, which serve as a powerful testament.

The resurrection is more than a belief that we need to hold, but the resurrection is a lifestyle that we are called to live.

So, this morning, the resurrection of Jesus invites us to become witnesses to our beliefs and confessions, and also with our actions just like Mary Magdalene did, "I have seen the Lord."

Today, death cannot defeat or dismay us more than ever before.

This truth is manifested to us on this Easter Sunday.

Jesus Christ is risen. Risen indeed.

Amen.