

## “Easter Essentials”

*Easter Day 2026 Adult Bible Class, Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Kilgore, TX*

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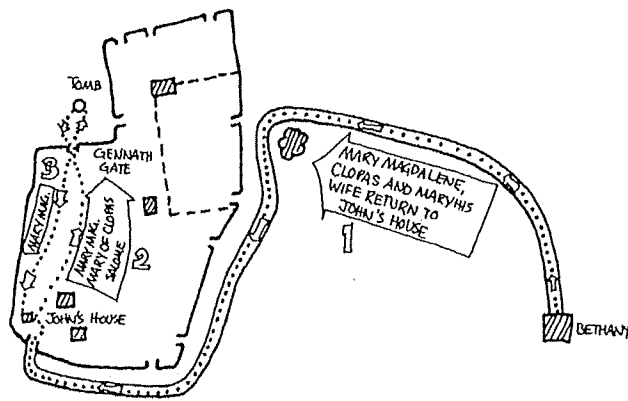
This Church Year we hear St. Matthew’s Divinely-inspired account of the Easter Gospel. The following comparison of the English Standard Version Gospel accounts helps us better see important details mentioned by all four evangelists (confer and compare 1 Corinthians 15:3-8). What follows is arranged primarily according to St. Matthew’s account, with some consideration of the more-careful harmonization done by John Wenham in his book *Easter Engima*, the basis for Pilgrim’s 2012 study for which you can find the complete handout and audio recordings at <https://pilgrimlc.org/uncategorized/easter-enigma>.

<b>Matthew 28:1-8, 9-10</b>	<b>Mark 16:1-8, 9-11</b>	<b>Luke 24:1-12</b>	<b>John 20:1-10, 14-18</b>
After the Sabbath (v.1)	Sabbath was past (v.1)		
<b>Toward the dawn (v.1)</b>	<b>Very early, when the sun had risen (v.2)</b>	<b>Early dawn (v.1)</b>	<b>While it was still dark (v.1)</b>
<b>The first day of the week (v.1)</b>	<b>The first day of the week (v.2)</b>	<b>The first day of the week (v.1)</b>	<b>The first day of the week (v.1)</b>
<b>Women went to the tomb (v.1)</b>	<b>Women went (vv.1, 2)</b>	<b>Women went to the tomb taking spices (vv.1, 10)</b>	<b>Mary Magdalene came to the tomb (v.1)</b>
To see the tomb (v.1)	To anoint (v.1)		
	Talk about the stone (v.3)		
Earthquake (v.2)			
<b>Angel rolled back the stone (v.2)</b>	<b>Saw the stone rolled back (v.4)</b>	<b>Found the stone rolled away (v.2)</b>	<b>Saw the stone had been taken away (v.1)</b>
		Did not find the body (v.3)	Taken the Lord out (v.2)
		Women perplexed (v.4)	
			Mary Magdalene ran (v.2)
			Mary Magdalene told Simon Peter and presumably John (v.2)
		Peter rose and ran to the tomb, looking in, saw cloths (v.12)	Peter and John ran to the tomb, looking/going in saw cloths (vv.5-8)

<b>Matthew 28:1-8, 9-10</b>	<b>Mark 16:1-8, 9-11</b>	<b>Luke 24:1-12</b>	<b>John 20:1-10, 14-18</b>
		Peter went home marveling (v.12)	John believed something and go home (vv.8-10)
<b>Angel, appearance lightning, clothing white (vv.2, 3)</b>	<b>Young man in white robe (v.5)</b>	<b>Two men in dazzling apparel (v.4)</b>	<b>Mary Magdalene sees two angels in white (vv.11-12)</b>
Guards became like dead men (v.4)			
	Women alarmed (v.5)	Frightened and bowed their faces (v.5)	
Angel said not to be afraid (v.5)	Young man says not to be alarmed (v.6)		
<b>You seek Jesus Who was crucified (v.5)</b>	<b>You seek Jesus of Nazareth Who was crucified (v.6)</b>	<b>Why do you seek the living among the dead? (v.5)</b>	<b>Angels ask why is Mary Magdalene weeping? (vv.13)</b>
<b>Not here, has risen (v.6)</b>	<b>Has risen, not here (v.6)</b>	<b>Not here, has risen (v.6)</b>	<b>Peter and John did not understand the Scripture that He must rise from the dead (v.9)</b>
Risen as He said (v.6)		Remember how He told you in Galilee, and they remembered (vv.6-8)	
Come see the place where He lay (v.6)	See the place (v.6)		
Angel said, having gone, tell His disciples (v.7)	Young man says go and tell disciples and Peter (v.7)		
Going before you to Galilee, there you will see Him (v.7)	Going before you to Galilee where you will see Him (v.7)		
Angel has told (v.7)	In Galilee just as He told you (v.7)		
Women depart quickly with fear and great joy and run to tell (v.8)	Women went out and fled, seized by trembling and astonishment (v.8)	Returning from the tomb (v.9)	
	Said nothing to anyone, afraid (v.8)	Told the eleven and the rest (vv.9, 10)	

<b>Matthew 28:1-8, 9-10</b>	<b>Mark 16:1-8, 9-11</b>	<b>Luke 24:1-12</b>	<b>John 20:1-10, 14-18</b>
	[Jesus appears first to Mary Magdalene (v.9)]		Jesus appears and asks why Mary Magdalene is weeping and whom she is seeking (vv.14-16)
			Jesus tells Mary Magdalene not to cling to Him and to tell His brothers He is ascending (v.17)
	[Mary Magdalene tells disciples (v.10)]		Mary Magdalene tells disciples she has seen the Lord and what He said (v.18)
		Thought idle tale, did not believe (v.11)	
	[Disciples do not believe (v.11)]		
Jesus met and greeted them (v.9)			
Women held His feet and worship (v.9)			
Jesus says not to be afraid (v.10)			
Jesus says go and tell brothers to go to Galilee, there they will see Him (v.10)			

• Easter Sunday—Very Early (Figure 7)



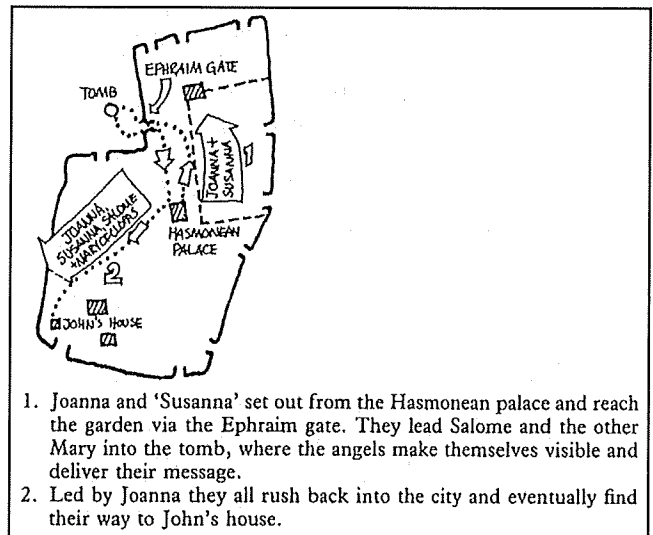
1. While it is still dark, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary (accompanied by her husband Clopas) set off from Bethany to return to John's house. (There is an earthquake, the angel removes the grave-stone and the guard flees.)
2. Clopas stays at John's house, while Salome joins the two Marys and the three proceed to the garden via the Gennath Gate.
3. They see the grave open. Mary Magdalene runs back to tell John and Peter.

Figure 7: Sunday--Very Early Morning

1. Matthew 28:1-4 (doesn't say from where they came or that they stopped at John's house but doesn't rule those out; compare usual timing of earthquake). (Earthquake not to let body out but witnesses in; descent and resurrection two aspects of victory proclamation. Guards risk lives leaving scene and agreeing to neglect story; if asleep they wouldn't know who stole the body. Angel moves inside?)
2. Mark 16:2-3 (puts Salome with them; Clopas staying at John's house [anointing women's work?] and gate information is conjecture); Luke 24:1.
3. Mark 16:4; Luke 24:1; John 20:1-2 (John alone reports Mary's wild conclusion and return before thinking of Jesus's possibly rising and before seeing Him.)

• Easter Sunday—Early Morning #1 (Figure 8)

1. (No Biblical evidence of second party of women joining the first, but certainly not ruled out. Joanna and "Susanna" had been in the tomb. Angels revealing and hiding themselves. "Ten minutes in the garden.") Matthew 28:5-7; Mark 16:5-7; Luke 24:3-8.
2. (Wenham presumes the women telling the disciples at John's house, even though it isn't on his chart; he figures Jesus's appearance to these women came later, although it arguably could have been at this time on their way back to the city.) Matthew 28:8; Mark 16:8; Luke 24:9-11 (somewhat amalgamated?).



1. Joanna and 'Susanna' set out from the Hasmonean palace and reach the garden via the Ephraim gate. They lead Salome and the other Mary into the tomb, where the angels make themselves visible and deliver their message.
2. Led by Joanna they all rush back into the city and eventually find their way to John's house.

Figure 8: Sunday--Early Morning #1

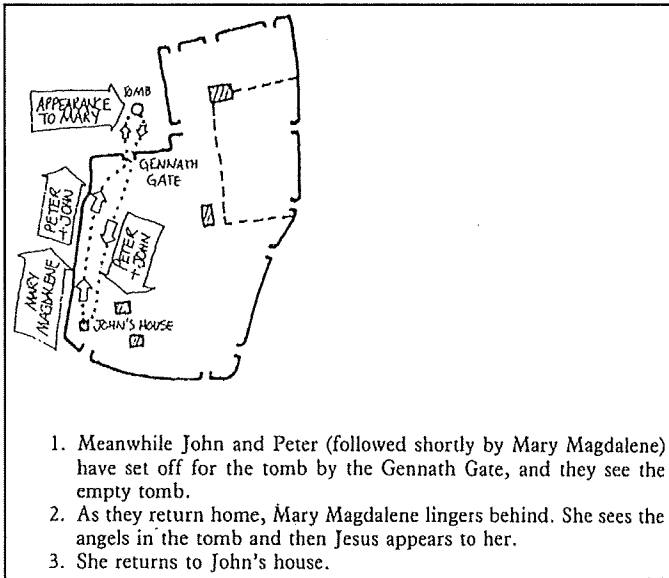


Figure 9: Sunday--Early Morning #2

- Easter Sunday—Morning (Figure 10)
  1. Matthew 28:9-10 (but conjectured recipients, timing, and location). (Women's "commission" to tell disciples "less than half fulfilled", so at least the two mothers of the two James go. Not necessary that Mary Magdalene personally tell the nine. Various considerations of Galilee appearances after week or so.)
  2. Mark 16:12; Luke 24:13-31. (Note Clopas's knowledge of morning's events, companion possibly St. Luke and his house, day spent at 2:00, and Word and Sacrament.)

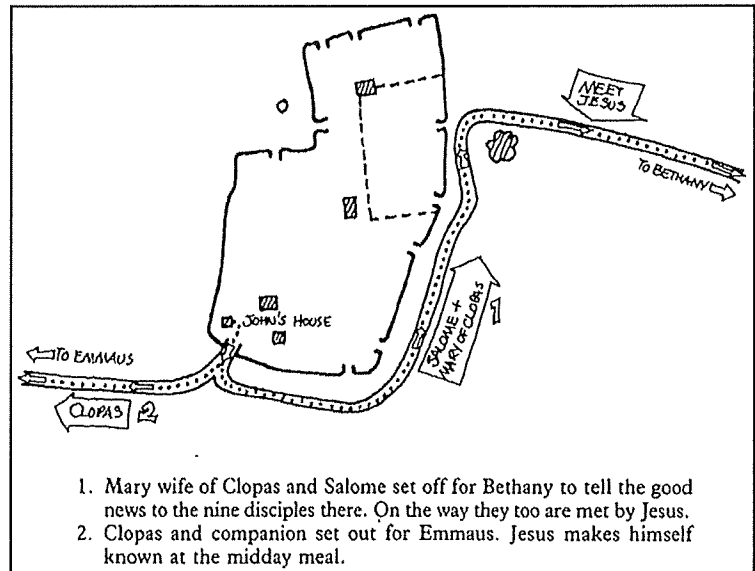


Figure 10: Sunday Morning

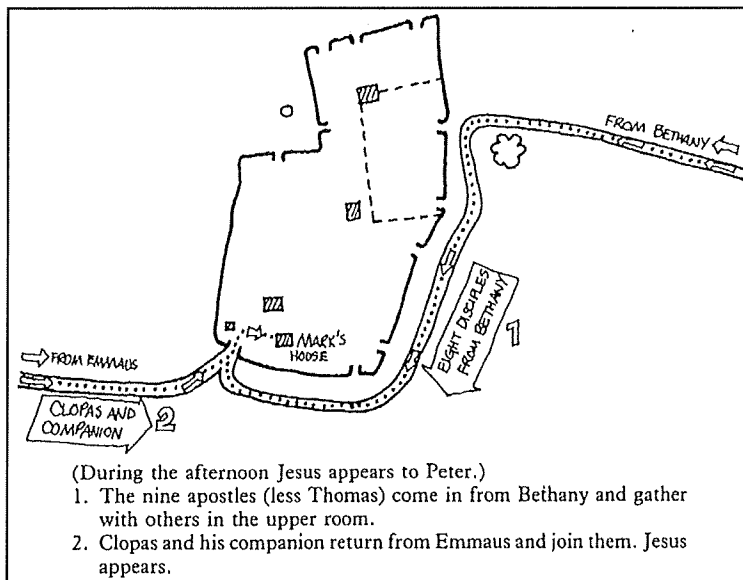


Figure 11: Easter Sunday--Afternoon

- Easter Sunday—Early Morning #2 (Figure 9)
  1. John 20:3-9 (confer Luke 24:12 and plural in v.24, but compare sequence). (John may have focused on Mary Magdalene because of his personal experience hearing the news from her. Alternative routes account for coming and going without meeting.)
  2. Mark 16:9; John 20:10-17. (Plural disciples can return to one singular home in John 20:10. Mary singular now versus plural earlier in report to John and Peter. May have thrown herself at Jesus's feet. Gardener/watchman may have been thought of as potential stone remover.)
  3. Mark 16:10-11; Luke 24:9-11; John 20:18.

- Easter Sunday—Afternoon (Figure 11)
  1. (To Peter, Luke 24:34, 1 Corinthians 15:5.) (Silence whence they came).
  2. Mark 16:13-14; Luke 24:32-49(?); John 20:19-23; 1 Corinthians 15:5.
- Other appearances (details debatable):
  - 500+: 1 Corinthians 15:6 (Galilee?).
  - Eighth Day: John 20:26-29. 1 Corinthians 15:7 to James (kin).
  - Sea: John 21:1-23 (third collective).
  - Galilee: Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:15-19 (Jerusalem? Confer Acts 1, 13:31?).