

EASTER SUNDAY The Overcoming One
LENT ONE2026 - Gospel of John
April 5, 2026
John 20:1-18

Sermon Points:

I. Entering the Unknown

- **The Journey of Faith:** Much like learning a new skill, the journey of faith requires moving forward through uncertainty, taking one step—or one pedal—after another.
- **The Context of Darkness:** We approach the Resurrection from the "unjustified death" of Good Friday and the season of Lent.
- **The Reality of Grief:** Mary Magdalene arrives at the tomb while it is "still dark," a reflection of the gloom and finality of loss in her own heart.

II. Running Toward Community (John 20:1–2)

- **Response to Confusion:** When faced with the shocking sight of the removed stone, Mary does not withdraw into isolation.
- **Seeking Christ Together:** In her darkest moment, she runs toward her community.
- **Core Truth:** Healing begins when we move toward others who can help us seek Jesus rather than choosing to hide in our overwhelm.

III. Belief Before Comprehension (John 20:3–10)

- **Shared Direction:** Peter and John race to the tomb. While their speeds differ, their direction is the same—running toward what they do not yet understand rather than away from it.
- **Signs of Life:** They find the burial linens neatly arranged, suggesting a body that passed through them rather than being stolen.
- **Grave Clothes vs. Life:** Just as Lazarus had to be unwrapped to live, Jesus leaves the grave clothes behind because they do not belong to the living.
- **Core Truth:** Faith often begins before full understanding; as John did, we are called to see and believe even when we cannot yet comprehend.

IV. The Power of the Word (John 20:11–16)

- **Blinded by Grief:** Mary stands weeping, unable to recognize the angels or even Jesus through her sorrow.
- **The Personal Call:** Jesus speaks one word—her name—and everything changes.
- **Biblical Authority:** All through Scripture, God's Word carries power: it creates the world, brings dry bones to life, and never returns empty.
- *"My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me." (John 10:27).*

V. Resurrection and Witness (John 20:17–18)

- **A New Mission:** Recognition immediately leads to witness. Mary runs to the disciples with the declaration: “*I have seen the Lord!*”.
- **Core Truth:** Resurrection always leads to witness.
- **Liberation and Restoration:** The Resurrection meets our deepest needs for identity and purpose, liberating us from sin, self-destructive tendencies, and trauma.

VI. Final Call to Response

- **The Invitation:** Draw near to the Heavenly Father who has given everything for us to know His love.
- **Reflection:** Where is Jesus calling your name today, and what grief might be blinding you from seeing what He is doing?

