FAST FACTS

- After the Sabbath, Ss. Mary Magdalene, St. Mary, and St. Salome went to anoint Jesus' body with spices.
- They were greeted by a young man, who told them that Jesus was risen, and to go tell the Disciples (and especially St. Peter).
- Jesus appeared to St. Mary Magdalene, but the others did not believe her.
- Jesus appeared to two men on the road to Emmaus, but the others did not believe them.
- Jesus appeared to the Disciples in Galilee, and rebuked them for not believing the reports of His Resurrection.
- He told them to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to all creatures.
- Jesus told them that God would empower them to work miracles as signs of the truth of their message.
- Jesus ascended into heaven.

MARK 16:1-8

The women who witnessed Jesus’ Crucifixion went after the Sabbath to anoint His body with spices. This anointing was an act of love: while Jews did not embalm corpses, they did put spices on the bodies of their deceased loved ones to reduce the smell of bodily decay. St. Mark is the only writer to record their conversation about moving the stone from the front of the tomb: they probably did not know that the tomb had been sealed and guarded (Matthew 27:62-66).

Fr. Paul Tarazi believes the "young man" who met the women at the tomb was probably St. Mark; the Church traditionally teaches that the young man was one of the angels mentioned in Matthew 28:5 and Luke 24:4 (this is reinforced by his white clothes, which in the New Testament are mentioned as worn by angels and glorified saints (Mark 9:3; Revelation 6:11; 7:9, 13)).

The young man gave the women the announcement that is a central part of the Church’s Paschal services: "He is risen!" He further told the women to announce this to the Disciples; by specifically mentioning St. Peter, the young man demonstrated God’s forgiveness of St. Peter’s
WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT FOLLOWING JESUS?

- Do I celebrate the fact that Jesus is risen? What does Pascha mean in my life?
- Do I believe what I have learned about Jesus? Do I trust His promises to His people, including me?
- Do I reach out to others, and try to share the Good News of Jesus with them? What can I do to share with others the great gift that God has given to me?

TIME TRAVEL

Mark 16:9-20 is a particularly difficult passage for biblical scholars because it is widely debated whether it was part of the original Gospel record, or whether someone added it long after the Gospel was written. This debate occurs because the earliest manuscripts of Mark, such as the version in the two primary New Testament collections, the Codex Sinaiticus and Codex Vaticanus, do not have these last twelve verses. Other collections give a shorter ending than is found in the twelve verses in the New King James Version, but most other manuscripts include the verses.

A 10th century Armenian manuscript attributes the verses to Aristo, one of the Holy Apostle John’s disciples. Some of the saints who quote passages from these last twelve verses include St. Irenaeus of Lyon (2nd century), St. Ambrose of Milan (4th century), and Blessed Augustine (4th – 5th centuries).

These verses are frequently quoted in Orthodox Christian explanations of Holy Baptism and exorcism.

LOOK AT YOURSELF

The Orthodox Church in America gives several suggestions for engaging in evangelism:
- Among family and friends — Talk to them about your experience in church, invite them to go to church with you, pray for them, etc.
- In your local community — Help your parish, get involved in charitable activity, be unafraid to live out and witness to your faith in school, in sports, with friends, etc.
- In your country or across the globe — Support the Church’s mission communities, go on a mission or service project trip, etc.

and women of God in the Church.

St. Mark concludes his Gospel account by quoting Jesus’ teaching regarding the need for baptism, as well as the fact that God will empower Christians to accomplish His purpose in the world. Finally, Jesus’ Ascension is depicted, with the final note that the Disciples then “went out and preached everywhere.”