

SAVIOR  
SERVANT  
FRIEND

SERMON FOR  
EASTER SUNDAY



REDEEMER

# SAVIOR SERVANT FRIEND

SERMONS FOR EASTER SUNDAY  
REDEEMER

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# SAVIOR SERVANT FRIEND

## SERMONS FOR EASTER SUNDAY REDEEMER

### SERMON

¶ I know (blank). There are endless ways that you could fill in that blank. The philosopher Socrates completed that sentence by saying, “I know that I know nothing.” Sherlock Holmes completed that sentence by saying, “I know what is good when I see it.” The prophet Jeremiah, speaking on behalf of God, said, “I know the plans that I have for you” (Jeremiah 29:11).

On that first Easter morning, the friends of Jesus would have completed that sentence by saying: “I know that something is up!” On that first Easter morning, the friends of Jesus knew that something was up. We hear about this in our Gospel reading from John 20: “Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark” (John 20:1). Three days before this, Mary Magdalene had been at the cross, watching as Jesus suffered and died: “Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene” (John 19:25). After witnessing the death of Jesus on the cross, Mary and other women went and were witnesses to the burial of Jesus in a tomb. They saw how his body was laid in the tomb and how a rock closed the tomb shut.

But now, on the third day, we hear this: “And [she] saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb” (John 20:1). This is not how she last saw it. Something was up. But what? A robbery—someone stole the body? An act of desecration—someone took the body of Jesus to further mock him and his followers? Mary didn’t know what this open tomb could mean, so she did the only thing that made sense: “She ran” (John 20:2). What was Mary thinking while she ran? We