

The Risen Christ Goes Ahead of You (Mark 16:1-8)

Bill Gaultiere ~ [Lectio Divina Guides](#) ~ [SoulShepherding.org](#)

Guidelines: Protect confidentiality and follow the leader's prompts

Lectio Divina Rhythms/Process (Repeat three times):

- (a) Read the Scripture passage ("Lectio")
- (b) Reflect on the focus question below ("Meditatio")
- (c) Respond in quiet prayer/journaling ("Oratio")
- (d) Rest in God's invitation for you then pray/share out loud if you want ("Contemplatio")

Introduction: Mark tells the story of Jesus' life with urgency and in-the-moment immediacy. Then he ends with the women at the empty tomb shaking and perplexed after hearing an angel tell them that Jesus rose from the dead! Abruptly Mark ends by saying, "They were afraid." His Gospel seems unfinished which could be why an ending was apparently added later. Maybe Mark leaves readers hanging on purpose to invite them to write their own conclusion on how the risen Christ has appeared to them personally.

Opening Prayer: "[Christ] is risen!... He is going ahead of you into _____" (Mark 16:6-7).

Read Scripture: Mark 16 (NIV84)

¹When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. ²Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb ³and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"

⁴But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. ⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.

⁶"Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'"

⁸Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

1st Reading: What is one word or phrase the Holy Spirit impresses on you? Meditate on that.

2nd Reading: Enter into the Scripture passage. What do you feel? In what specific situation in your life today do you need the risen Christ to go ahead of you? Write down a prayer or pray quietly.

3rd Reading: What is God saying to you about your personal situation? You can write down what God may be saying to you or a prayer of thanks. Or rest quietly in God as you imagine the risen Christ walking ahead of you and you're following him.