

Dear Friends in Christ,

“And they said nothing to anyone because they were afraid (Mark 16:8)

So ends Mark’s Gospel and his account of the resurrection of Jesus. Scholars admit it is a curious ending. In the Greek it ends with a subjunctive which has led many scholars to think that the earliest manuscripts may have been damaged. Other early texts of Mark have alternate endings but neither are viewed by the best scholarship as the original.

I have to confess that I like the fact that the best manuscripts end with the words quoted above. I am glad that Mark’s Gospel doesn’t seem to have an ending because I believe that in its lack of an ending it conveys a truth. Namely, that the resurrection of Jesus is unending and the Good News of what God has done and is doing in Jesus Christ is forever. This is our Easter proclamation.

We know that Mark’s Gospel and the resurrection of Jesus did not end with fear. If that were the case, we would not be here as the Church of God. We exist because God’s grace empowered the first witnesses of the resurrection to tell what they had seen and heard. We are here because others since that day have had the courage to tell and live the story of Jesus and his love so that the truth of his resurrection would be passed on to successive generations. The call to tell this Good News with our lips and lives now comes to us. Are we up to the call or will we say nothing because we are afraid?

My prayer is that God will conquer whatever fears we may have of sharing our faith and that each member of our diocese will be filled anew this Easter with a heart to share the Gospel of Jesus’ resurrection.

Yours in Christ,

The Rt. Rev. Steven A. Miller
Bishop of Milwaukee

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