

The women

by [Angela Alaimo O'Donnell](#) in the [April 8, 2020](#) issue

*And the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay." Matthew 28:5-6*

Because the angel spoke lightning, white and hot  
Because the guards lay stunned like living stones  
Because the rock that blocked the cave was budged  
Because their arms held pots of oil and dry spice  
Because he shone so bright he hurt their eyes  
Because they'd been weeping instead of sleeping  
Because it was dawn and the first birds were up  
Because they'd slipped out of the house in the dark  
Because the children would be waking soon  
Because their breasts were full of morning milk  
Because their hearts leapt like new lambs  
Because he was their Lord and was not dead  
Because the air was chilly, their robes thin,  
They ran from the tomb praising him.