



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Wherever You Are in the World, God Is With You
ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton Weekly Video Message
April 9, 2021

I don't know about you, but I have found that this pandemic has worn on for so long that I get confused about my schedule. I'm not sure where I'm supposed to be when or what I'm supposed to be doing. And I think I know what's in my calendar but find myself sometimes, absolutely, completely missing what I was supposed to be doing.

So, for example, today, I was convinced that the team said we were going to video in the chapel at the Lutheran Center this afternoon. And I came here and it was all dark and no one was around, and, you know, it took me a little while to realize that I was in the wrong place at the wrong time.

It's funny how that happens, and I'm sure that's happened to you. But then I was also thinking about the end of the Gospel according to Mark. Where the women, once they hear the news of Jesus' resurrection, just stood there in fear and trembling. They come to a cemetery, expecting death. And now this amazing announcement had happened. In the Greek it says, *ékstasis* — standing at a different place, standing next to or outside of oneself. We get the word “ecstasy” from that.

It turns out that the women had come to the right place at the wrong time. That the time was not the time of death.

And it turns out that I'm here in the chapel in the right place. Just as we all are in our right places when we recognize and feel and allow the presence of God to be completely surrounding us. So wherever you are in the world, God is with you.

Be well, dear church.