

April 19, 2025

Daily Reflections

Journeying through Lent



Center for Spiritual Development

WAITING IN MYSTERY

By Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

Holy Saturday

Yesterday, Jesus cried, ***“It is Finished!”*** He died and was taken down from the cross and laid in an unused tomb. Today is the in-between time of grief, loss, emptiness. It is a day of mystery, of silent emptiness -- and yet, not for us who believe in the resurrection of Jesus. We know what is coming, but Mother Mary and the friends of Jesus did not. They simply waited in the vague sense of loneliness and disappointment of this nothing, this space after the finality of blinding loss.

Anyone who has lost a loved one knows the day-after feeling of emptiness and heartache. Grateful for all that had been Jesus, and for his ultimate sacrifice. It is okay to be here, in the in-between mystery, to pray, remember, and grieve. Be present to the empty silence without thought as to what is to come.

Two years ago, I went on pilgrimage to the Holy Land, where there is great emphasis on standing in the place of the death of Jesus. Back at home, as I

prayed on Holy Saturday morning, I was in the space of mystery and emptiness. Suddenly, out of nowhere, came a sense of Jesus standing in my room with me, saying, “I am not dead! I am alive and present in resurrected glory. Yes, you not only stood in the place of the Crucifixion: ***you stood in the place of my Resurrection!***” Rejoice and be glad! I am alive.

I can still feel the spiritual energy of the grace-filled encounter and a new awareness. Tears of joy came into my eyes as I was filled with pulsating joy, great excitement, and renewed strength and faith at the Presence and grace given to me in that moment. ***Jesus is not dead! Jesus is alive and is with and within me.*** What more needs to be said?



Mosaic
Photo by Matthew Tabone

For Reflection and Prayer

In the fourth week of the Exercises, St. Ignatius of Loyola breaks from scripture to honor the movement of the heart. He has the retreatants use their imagination to visualize Jesus, in secret, first appearing to his Mother Mary. He rejoiced in her unconditional and steadfast love.

Imagine the moment of surprise, the conversation, the welcoming presence. At the felt sense of Jesus present, Mary sings out once more:

***“My Soul Magnifies the Lord! My Spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.
Blessed is she who believed in the promises made by God.”***

AMEN!! ALLELUIA!

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