

April 21, 2025

Daily Reflections

Journeying through Easter



Center for Spiritual Development

SPEAK, MARY, DECLARING WHAT YOU SAW

By Sr. Jeanne Fallon, CSJ

Excerpt from the *Victimae paschali laudes*

...The Prince of life, who died, reigns immortal.

Speak, Mary, declaring

What you saw, wayfaring.

"The tomb of Christ, who is living,

The glory of Jesus' resurrection;

bright angels attesting,

The shroud and napkin resting.

Yes, Christ my hope is arisen;

to Galilee he goes before you."

Christ indeed from death is risen, our new life obtaining.

Have mercy, victor King, ever reigning!

Amen. Alleluia.

Today's Gospel

Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went away quickly from the tomb, fearful yet overjoyed, and ran to announce the news to his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them on their way and greeted them. They approached, embraced his feet, and did him homage. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”

While they were going, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had happened. The chief priests assembled with the elders and took counsel; then they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, telling them, “You are to say, ‘His disciples came by night and stole him while we were asleep.’ And if this gets to the ears of the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.” The soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has circulated among the Jews to the present day.

MATTHEW 28:8-15

Reflection

The *Victimae paschali laudes*, translation: Christians, praise the Paschal Victim, also known as the “Easter Sequence.” This ancient Gregorian chant is included in the liturgy for the eight days of the Easter celebration (Easter Octave). The poem tells a short narrative story of Resurrection morning, inviting Mary of Magdala to tell what she saw as she walked (or ran) along the path to tell the disciples the news that Jesus had risen from the dead.

The gospel passage from Matthew offers a window into the story of the resurrection of Jesus. Previous to the passage above, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary had just experienced an earthquake and seen an angel descending from heaven, rolling back the stone and sitting on it. The angel consoled the women and told them that Jesus had been raised from the dead and that they were to go quickly to tell the disciples to meet Jesus in Galilee. The women were filled with great joy as they ran to tell the news to the disciples. On the way Jesus met them saying, “Go tell my brothers...!” Imagine their astonishment as they saw Jesus alive with their own eyes! Embracing his feet, they heard Jesus tell them to go to his brothers and tell them that he is risen and will meet them in Galilee. They had the Good News of Jesus’ resurrection, and they were sent as missionaries or apostles to Jesus’ brothers, his cherished disciples.



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For Pondering and Prayer

Take a moment to absorb the beauty of this moment: the women disciples had seen Jesus, risen and radiant, and were given a mission to go tell the other disciples to go to Galilee where the mission first started! Perhaps you might want to pray the *Victimae Paschali Laudes* and go with the women as they carry the Good News to the rest of the community. "Yes, Christ my hope is risen!"

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