

April 20, 2023



Center for Spiritual Development

Daily Reflections

JOURNEYING THROUGH EASTER

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PRESENCE IN ABUNDANCE

By Sister Jane DeLisle, CSJ

*“For the one whom God sent speaks the words of God.
He does not ration his gift of the Spirit.”*

JOHN 3:34

Reflection

Recently I was blessed to go on pilgrimage to the Holy Land, to physically walk in the footsteps of Jesus, to be in the place he grew up, deepened his relationship with God, his Father, and claimed his mission. It was after reading *Jesus, A Pilgrimage* by James Martin, SJ, that my long-held desire came to life. The book had already drawn me into the pilgrimage experience. I felt I was there with him living the gospels today. Now I would actually travel to the Holy Land!

While on my pilgrimage, I simply attended to the present moment and entered the gospels in every location visited. No big insight or felt sense of presence was given to me. Yet, I knew deep down that I was accumulating grace, knowledge, and experience that would enlighten my prayer and reflection on the scriptures in days to come.

Sure enough, during Holy Week I/we accompanied Jesus through his adult life,

engaged his mission, and realized the great cost of radical love. I had seen for myself where Jesus had been. I had stood in the place of the recounted gospel, and it drew me into the stories in a fresh manner. Totally unexpected, on Holy Saturday morning I recalled being at the tomb of Jesus in the Holy Sepulcher Basilica in Jerusalem. Suddenly, it dawned on me that I had stood in the very place of the resurrection! I was in what had been the garden outside the tomb!

Within me flamed a deep knowing and sense of Jesus' presence with me, though not visible, as he was to Mary Magdalene. Even as I write today, the soul space sense of presence surges within me. Jesus is not dead—he is alive, present to you and me!

The gift of pilgrimage, the grace of daily prayer, remembering the stories of Jesus and accompanying him each year through Lent, Holy Triduum, and awakening to Easter Resurrected Presence linger with me. This Easter a felt sense of abiding presence remains strong in my heart and soul. I am immersed in a personal relationship with the Risen Jesus! He is Alive!

God's desire to be one with me and with you becomes our own desire to belong and to live out of the graces of abiding presence experienced intensely in a moment and known within my being even in quiet, remembered graces of consolation. These gifts of the Spirit are always available even if sometimes only in memory and trust. God never takes back the gifts given to us and stirs them into life in unexpected ways.

It is from the place of deeply held faith and grace that we, too, are "*sent to speak the words of God*" to weary souls and a wounded world. Rejoice in the faith that has been given to us. Jesus Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!



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For Pondering & Prayer

Recall your own experiences of God's presence and invitation in your life. Don't miss the quiet, gentle gifts. These, too, are gift of God's love for you.

*Gracious God of abiding presence,
I praise and thank you for the marvelous and diverse ways
you draw me to yourself.
I rejoice in the encounters of Easter Life renewed in me.
I am yours.
May I live into your presence among your people.
Amen*

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