

March 30, 2024

Daily Reflections

Journeying through Lent



Center for Spiritual Development

IN WAITING

By Julie Mussché

An Excerpt from Today's First Reading

*Then God said,
"Let there be light," and there was light.
God saw how good the light was.
God then separated the light from the darkness.
God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night."
Thus evening came, and morning followed—the first day.*

GENESIS 1:3-5

Reflection

The Jerusalem Marketplace After Sundown

Sabbath had ended and Mary and the other women were purchasing the linen and spices that they would need for tomorrow morning. The women completed

their task and made their way back through the narrow stone pathways to the house where they were staying. They would be leaving before sunrise next morning so once they arrived, they started to prepare themselves for rest. The small group started considering moving the huge stone in front of the cave where Jesus's body lay, but concluded that the conversation would be better left for the morning after they all had had some sleep. Mary the Magdalene looked at the women through the candlelight. "How tired we all are," she observed to herself. "It's as if we are in a trance."

Unexpectedly, the horrors of the last day poured in, images of Jesus being tortured and nailed to the cross. His words echoed almost as if she were there on Golgotha. Her body started trembling under the heaviness of her anguish and terror, and her heart went out to Jesus and his mother. Mary sat quietly, steeped in empathy and without thought. Her mournful contemplation was abruptly punctuated by an owl screeching off in the distance. Mary's thoughts went to tomorrow; while sad, she was grateful to be able to give the loving act of caring for Jesus's body. Realizing that dawn was only hours away, Mary began her prayer for sleep, putting everything in Adonai's hands.



A Prayerful Invitation

During this time of waiting, as we anticipate the promise and joy of Jesus's Resurrection, and prepare to renew our baptismal vows and celebrate as community, let us pray for one another and extend that prayer out to our global family and our battered world.

Companioning Psalm from Today's Readings

*Bless the LORD, O my soul!
O LORD, my God, you are great indeed!
You are clothed with majesty and glory,
robed in light as with a cloak.*

PSALM 104:1-2

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