

April 1, 2024

Daily Reflections

Journeying through Easter



Center for Spiritual Development

"GO TELL MY BROTHERS ..."

By Sr. Jeanne Fallon, CSJ

Today's Gospel

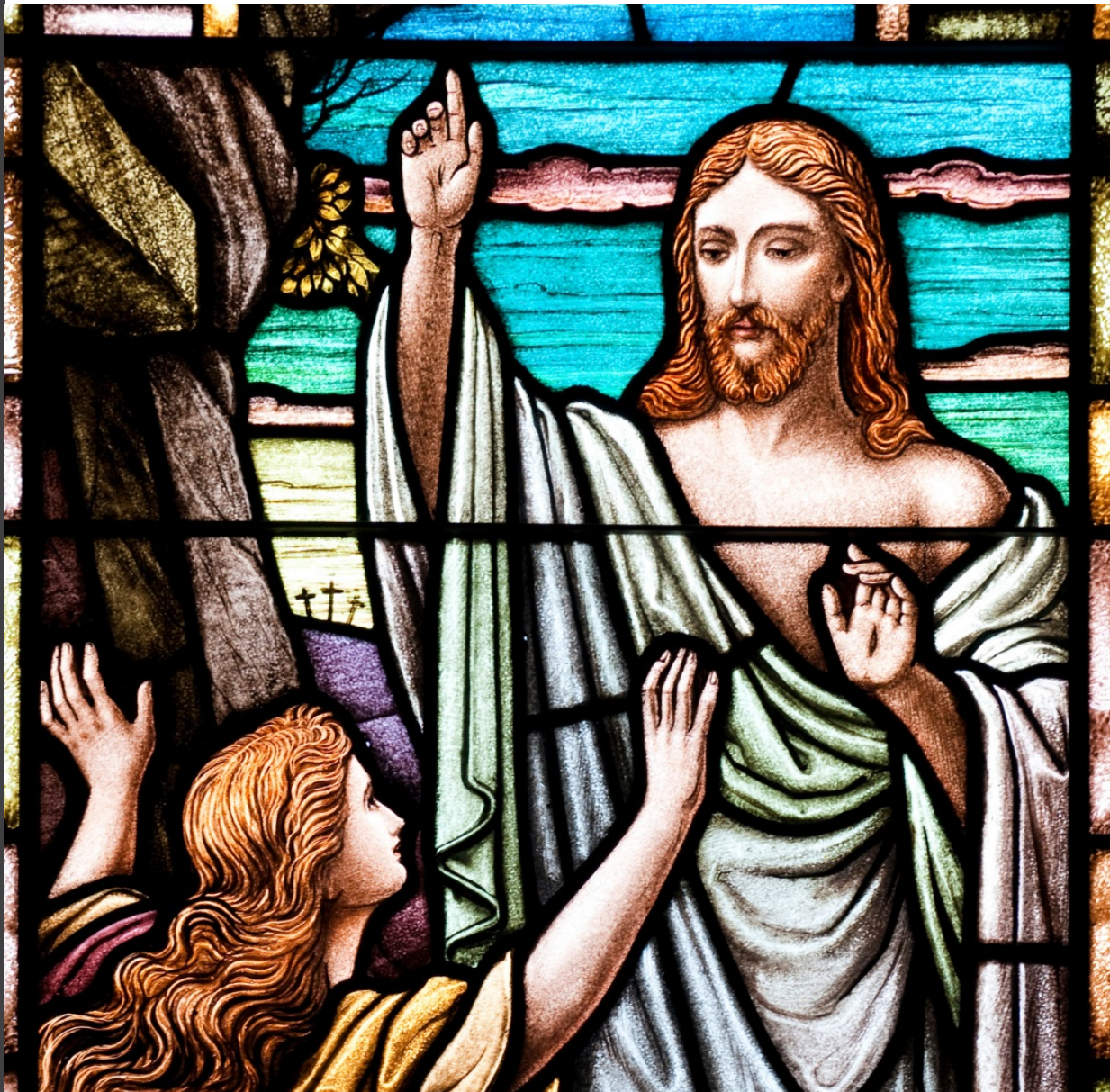
Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went away quickly from the tomb, fearful yet overjoyed, and ran to announce the news to his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them on their way and greeted them. They approached, embraced his feet, and did him homage. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go tell 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

Before considering the passage above, it will be helpful to note what happened to the two women prior to this story. In 28:1-7, Matthew describes an earthquake and an angel descending from heaven, rolling back the stone and sitting on it. The angel consoled the women, revealing to them that Jesus had been raised from the dead and that they were to go quickly to tell the disciples to meet him in Galilee.

As the story continues in today's Gospel, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary, joyful and wondering what is happening, are rushing on their way to give the disciples the startling news of Jesus' being raised. On the way, Jesus greeted them! Jesus himself! Imagine their delight and amazement as they worshiped Jesus. Just as the angel had said, Jesus told the two women not to be afraid and to go tell the disciples to meet him in Galilee. (While they were on their way, there was also the episode of the guards, the chief priests, and hush money.)





Stained glass window in Tennessee church
Photo by Joel Carillet

For Pondering

Let us pause for a moment... “*Do not be afraid,*” these consoling words from Jesus, so often repeated throughout the Gospels, assure the women as he sends them on mission to *his brothers*: they become apostles to the apostles. The women who had bravely come to the tomb before dawn, because of love, are the first to see Jesus risen from the dead. How their hearts must have been filled with wonder, exuberance, and zeal as they listened to his words, “*Go tell my brothers...*”

For Prayer

- What is happening within you as you ponder these words?
 - What is stirring inside as you imagine Jesus with the women, **Jesus with you in this moment**, telling you he is risen from the grave?
 - How do you want to respond?
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