

April 1, 2024

Daily Reflections

Journeying through Easter



Center for Spiritual Development

TEARS FOR THE BELOVED

By Sr. Jeanne Fallon, CSJ

Today's Gospel

Mary Magdalene stayed outside the tomb weeping. And as she wept, she bent over into the tomb and saw two angels in white sitting there, one at the head and one at the feet where the Body of Jesus had been. And they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken my Lord, and I don't know where they laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus there, but did not know it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" She thought it was the gardener and said to him, "Sir, if you carried him away, tell me where you laid him, and I will take him." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni," which means Teacher. Jesus said to her, "Stop holding on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and tell them, 'I am going to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and then reported what he had told her.

JOHN 20:11-18

Reflection

Mary weeping outside the tomb of her beloved ... who could have taken away the Body of Jesus? The angels asked her why she was weeping. Then even Jesus asked her why she was weeping. "Whom are you looking for?" Mistaking him for the gardener, Mary did not recognize Jesus until he said, "Mary!" He called her by name. When she heard the tone of his voice saying her name, it must have been like the heavens broke open and she saw her Beloved.

Responding in Hebrew, she said *Teacher!* Here he was standing before her on this dazzling morning. Tears she had shed in the shadow of the tomb were changed into dancing on this brilliant meadow, as Jesus was standing there, loving her. Jesus sent Mary on mission to his brothers, announcing the good news of his rising from the dead. Can you imagine Mary joyfully running with the Good News of Jesus' Rising?

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news." (Isaiah 52:7)



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For Prayer

On the Feast of Easter, we pray a beautiful poem which is a summary of the great mystery we celebrate throughout the season of Easter. As you pray through the poem, notice if any words or phrases speak to your heart.

The Sequence

Christians, to the Paschal Victim

Offer your thankful praises!

A Lamb the sheep redeems;

Christ, who only is sinless,

Reconciles sinners to the Father.

Death and life have contended in that combat stupendous:

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.

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