

April 11, 2023



Center for Spiritual Development

Daily Reflections

JOURNEYING THROUGH EASTER

Photo by Tomas Williams from Pexels

FAITHFUL MARY MAGDALENE

By Sister Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ

Excerpts from Today's Readings

Our soul waits for the Lord, who is our help and our shield. May your kindness, O Lord, be upon us who have put our hope in you.

PSALM 33:22

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, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni."

JOHN 20:11-14, 16

Reflection

In today's Gospel excerpt from John, we witness Mary Magdalene's grief as she weeps for the loss of Jesus. Weeping is a profound emotion; one that reflects the deep love she has for Jesus. She knows how he was crucified, as well as the pain Jesus suffered as he carried the cross to his own death. She saw him nailed to the tree and was there as he drew his last breath.

The readings this week reveal both the sorrow and joy of Mary Magdalene as she prays her goodbyes to Jesus and then exalts as she recognizes him when he calls her name. Whenever I pray with these scriptures, I ask myself, do I love Jesus with all my heart? Do I allow myself to access my own deeply held emotions?



Mary Magdalene

*Mary Magdalene
Ever faithful, ever present.
You model unbridled love
for Jesus, your Lord.*

*We pray for a similar
steadfast love,
a love that allows us
to experience the joy
in recognizing our Beloved.*

*May our hearts leap
as we recognize God
in our own life and time.
Like Mary Magdalene
God whispers our name
as he draws near to us.*

JAYNE HELMLINGER, CSJ

For Pondering

- As this Easter Season unfolds, reflect on the many ways God calls to you in unexpected, yet familiar places.
 - Have you experienced your own “Mary Magdalene moments” when you recognize God in your midst? Reflect on that experience and allow the Spirit to move you.
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For Prayer

May we live as people of the resurrection, trusting that God is always with us. We pray for the grace to spontaneously open our hearts and allow ourselves to be conduits of God’s abundant love in our daily lives. Amen.

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