

July 22, 2023



Daily Reflections

JOURNEYING THROUGH CHALLENGING TIMES

Image by Christine Sponchia from Pixabay

MY SOUL IS THIRSTING FOR YOU, O LORD MY GOD

By Sr. Christine Hilliard, CSJ

From Today's Gospel Reading

On the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him." Mary 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 Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and then reported what he told her.

JOHN 20:1-2, 11-18

Reflection

Mary Magdalene, a businesswoman from a fishing town on the western shore of Lake Galilee, was one of the first disciples of Jesus. Besides learning from his teachings, Mary experienced firsthand his healing. She became one of the group of women who accompanied Jesus on his missionary journeys throughout Galilee. Women normally were not permitted to study with a rabbi, so these women went against the customs of their time.

After witnessing Jesus' death and burial, the next day Mary Magdalene went to pay her respects at his tomb. Noticing the tomb was empty, she ran away to tell the disciples of the empty tomb and the missing body. Peter and the "beloved disciple" came to see the empty tomb then left. Mary stayed, mourning the disappearance of her cherished Teacher. And then, she heard her name called and she recognized her Teacher very much alive. Jesus instructed her to announce his living presence to his "brothers." Thus she technically became the "apostle to the apostles," the first to announce that Jesus had conquered death.



Tapestry of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ - Vatican Museums
Photo by Eugenio Barboza

For Pondering

- What questions would you like to ask Mary of Magdala?
 - What significance does the resurrection of Jesus have in your life?
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For Prayer

Standing beside Mary Magdalene at the empty tomb, hear her pray:

*O God, you are my God whom I seek;
for you my flesh longs and my soul thirsts
like the earth, parched, lifeless and without water.*

*Your kindness is a greater good than life;
my lips shall glorify you.*

*Thus will I bless you while I live;
lifting up my hands, I will call upon your name.
As with the riches of a banquet shall my soul be satisfied,
and with exultant lips my mouth shall praise you.*

*You are my help, and in the shadow of your wings I shout for joy.
My soul clings fast to you; your right hand upholds me.
Amen.*

ADAPTED FROM PSALM 63

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