

WALKING WITH THE RISEN CHRIST

Scripture: John 20:1-18

April 12, 2020

“Early in the morning of the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been rolled away from the tomb.”

~ John 20:1

Mary's shock and anguish at witnessing the brutal death of her Lord on a cross was punctuated by her discovery of an empty tomb. She ran to Simon Peter and the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, to tell them that Jesus' body had been taken. They ran back to the tomb with Mary and discovered the folded linen cloths lying there. The disciples returned to where they were staying, but Mary remained outside the tomb, crying. Jesus stood beside her, but in her grief, she supposed him to be the gardener. It was only when he called her by her name, “Mary,” that she recognized Him.

Mary ran to the disciples a second time and was able to announce, “I HAVE SEEN THE LORD!”

This past year has brought a series of “firsts.” Last Easter was the first one without our beautiful daughter, Emily. She died of the disease of opioid addiction. I survived the first weeks and months under a heavy blanket of grief. Slowly, I was able to recognize divine assurances that our daughter, released from her suffering, is whole, healed, and joyful in His presence. Like Mary, at first my indescribable loss kept me from recognizing that Jesus was and is beside me through everything. He calls me by my name, and I can allow myself to be comforted. Tears still flow as I miss her so, but I am confident that death does NOT have the last word.

Jesus Christ, God's Son, willingly sacrificed Himself for us and was raised. Believing, we have life in His name forever!

Prayer: Father God, you understand all our sorrows. Help us to imagine ourselves, as your children, climbing into your hands and resting there. Heal and restore us to be joyful Jesus followers. May we be able to announce, I have seen the Lord! Amen.

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