

Holy Tuesday - April 12, 2022

**New Life**  
[John 12:20-36](#)

*“I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. –John 20:24*

Natalie Sleeth’s *Hymn of Promise* reminds us that “In the bulb there is a flower, in the seed, an apple tree. . .”

We know that seeds and bulbs must be covered in dirt for a period of time in order to be nourished and sprout into a new plant. I love to grow flowers and enjoy tucking their seeds or bulbs into the ground and then waiting, watching with anticipation for them to begin peeking out of the ground and growing into mature plants reaching for the sun.

What a delight it is to watch them grow and bloom as they provide colorful beauty for our enjoyment. They ask nothing in return. At the end of their life cycle they die and return to the earth to replenish the soil. Some drop seeds or spread more bulbs which stay in the ground until the next season when they again produce new life.

It’s a mystery as to how a small seed or bulb, simple and plain -- appearing lifeless -- can be transformed into a beautiful plant flourishing with leaves and blossoms.

Like the seeds that must fall to the ground and die, Christ also had to die. He was entombed for three days before his resurrection. He lay dormant, like the seeds, awaiting a transformation to new life.

The women who went to his grave were going there to grieve. They weren’t anticipating a risen Christ who had sprung from the grave into new life. They were expecting a lifeless body, and some say they even mistook Jesus for a gardener near the tomb.

His death and resurrection offer new life to all of us that we may flourish and share the good news with the world. As Sleeth’s last verse tells us, “In our death, a resurrection, at the last a victory.”

May we live our lives in such a way to reflect the beauty of Christ as the flowers brighten and add joy to our days. Then, at our death we also will rejoice in the promise of eternal life.

***Prayer:** Our loving God, we thank you for the gift of your precious son whose life, death, and resurrection gave us the opportunity to have eternal life. Help us to spring forth into new life and share the beauty and joy of your love and promise of a final victory. Amen.*

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