

HE IS RISEN!

Acts 10: 34a, 37-43; Ps. 118; Col. 3: 1-4; Jn. 20: 1-18

Mary Magdalene was in a desperate search for Jesus. When she looked in the tomb and saw two angels, she said to them: 'They have taken away my Lord and I do not know where they have laid Him.' She did not understand the significance of Jesus' words: 'Destroy this temple and, in three days, I will raise it up.' Mary thought that Jesus' body may have been taken by grave robbers.

Jesus had compassion on Mary. As she was weeping at the loss of her Lord, He appeared to her, although she did not recognize Him at first. But when He called her name, she immediately saw Him for who He was and then was able to announce the good news to the disciples.

Like Mary, we are in a constant search for Jesus. St. Augustine put it this way: 'Our hearts are restless until they rest in thee.' Until we find Jesus, we are anxious, distracted and unhappy. We are not able to find true joy in our lives.

But we need to remember that HE IS RISEN! Death was not the end for Jesus. In the words of St. Paul, if we set our minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, we will find the resurrected Christ. Not only that but if, like Mary, we are at the point of despair at not finding Him, Jesus will come to us.

St. Peter said that 'God raised Him on the third day and allowed Him to appear, not to all the people, but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses.' We who believe are witnesses of Christ resurrected and He will appear to us when we need Him most.

We have come through an intense period where we have journeyed through six weeks of Lent and then the three holiest days of the year: Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. As we journeyed, we focused on the life of Jesus, His teachings and His miracles, with the intensity reaching a peak in His Passion and death. Like the disciples, it would be easy for us to think that Jesus' story ended on the Cross.

As we reflect on the Gospel, we can place ourselves beside Mary Magdalene and look into the empty tomb. With two thousand years of hindsight, we know that Jesus has risen from the dead and ascended to the Father. We know that He has prepared the way for us to follow Him to our heavenly home. And so we have the confidence to pray the Collect:

*O God, who on this day, through your Only Begotten Son,
have conquered death and unlocked for us the path to eternity,
grant, we pray, that we who keep the solemnity of the Lord's Resurrection
may, through the renewal brought by your Spirit, rise up in the light of life.*

We have found Jesus. Let us proclaim His Resurrection with Easter joy!