

Lenten Reflection

Easter Sunday, March 27, 2016

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Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. (John 20:1-9)

Mary came to the tomb to complete the burial ritual that was left undone on Friday evening. She came early so that she could not only add the preservative spices as all orthodox Jews were given but be in the presence of the body of Jesus. I imagine she not only rose early but hurried to the tomb to be alone in her work. Her mind was focused on the events of Friday and the feeling of being so alone. She herself could not have rolled aside the stone but thought of enlisting some able bodied man, perhaps a soldier, to do it. Mary's plans for the Sunday morning were totally disrupted when she found that Jesus' body was gone.

How often we gather our journal and Bible and settle down to our morning prayer. We know what we want to do in that time, but find ourselves unable to proceed. As we throw ourselves on God's mercy, we receive a gift greater than we could have foreseen, a peace and quiet that takes us into our inner self. Like Mary, we pause and find the Savior.

This Easter Liturgy brings us to the realization of what the Resurrection means. Our hearts leap up in a paean of joy. Jesus is with us. He has conquered sin and death. Our roads from the garden will be rocky and difficult but our Savior has walked them before us and will be with us on the journey.

Our plans mean nothing in the large scheme of things. It is the Christ, the Son of God, who guides us. It is Jesus who has modeled the way in which we should go. And it is the Spirit who will give us the courage to follow where he trod.

Jesus Lives! Alleluia