

Easter Vigil @ Home

READ

John 20:1-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending 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 she told them that he had said these things to her.

DISCUSS

What would you have done if you were Mary at the tomb?

ENGAGE

Light a Candle

One tradition of the church on Easter Vigil is to bless a new Paschal Candle for use during worship through the next Easter. (The Paschal Candle is the large candle that is lit by the font for baptisms, funerals, and through the season of Easter as it stands to remind us of the promise of the resurrection.) On this Vigil of Easter you are invited to light a candle in your home as a symbol of watching for the first light of Easter to come in this world and fill us all with the light of the resurrection! (If you still have your Candlemas @ Home candle this would be a great time to light it!)

PRAY

A Prayer for Keeping Watch for the Resurrection

Pray this prayer by completing each of the prompts:

We wait, Jesus, and watch for signs of new life we see around us, especially for:

We are glad for the many blessings we have received this Holy week, especially for:

We give thanks for the generous people in our life, especially for:

Fill our hearts with gratitude throughout this day of waiting and shower us with the grace of your merciful love.

Amen.