

## Homily For Tuesday of the First Week of Easter - Year I

### St Peter's 8:30am/7:00pm Masses - April 11, 2023

**Acts 2:36-41** "Cut to the heart, they asked: What should we do?"

**Psalms 33:4-5,18-22** "Let your steadfast love be upon us, Lord, even as we hope in you."

**John 20: 11-18** "Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord."

### Recognize the Lord's Voice

#### Introduction

Christ is risen from the dead, alleluia. O hell, where is your victory. O death, where is your sting. The glory of God has defeated the darkness. Our God is not dead. He's alive. The prophets foretold his coming. The first disciples walked and talked with him, witnessing great deeds of power that could only come from God. Those who came later responded to their name being called. Now is the time for us to proclaim these truths to the world still in darkness.

This is the third day of the octave of Easter, an eight day joyful solemnity as we recognize Jesus having passed through death to resurrected life. This is what makes the Christian hope unique. This does not exist anywhere else in the world. Creation was seven days. Now, the eighth day, God has remade creation. The way of the cross has become the way of light. We go from 40 days of repentance to 50 days of joyful celebration. This is the time for us to recognize him again, to hear his voice call our name. It's not like Lazarus, who was returned to his original life. This is a new life. It is a resurrected life.

#### John

Mary Magdalene is our guide to the resurrection today. That's so wonderful. History has seen few disciples as loyal and full of affection as Mary of Magdala. She also came the furthest as a disciple. She wasn't just called out of an ordinary life of collecting fish or taxes. She was demon possessed. She was in a darkness that only Jesus could defeat. In a real sense, she had already been raised to new life from death. But now she would be the one to announce the news that transforms the world: "I have seen the Lord."

But first she weeps uncontrollably. There are many reasons for weeping. Peter wept bitterly, realizing the full weight of having denied the one he believed and had come to know was the holy one of God. Mary gets asked twice why she is weeping, once by the angels in the tomb, and once by Jesus himself, whom she thinks is the gardener. Even while not recognizing Jesus at the moment of his resurrection, she tells the truth about Jesus. He is the first gardener, having made the place Adam and Eve lived in harmony with God. Now, in this garden, creation is being remade for all who will become sons and daughters of the Father, brothers and sisters of the Lord, by grace. The angel Cherubim guarded the entrance to the first garden. Now, these angels welcome believers to the new garden.

But before understanding this, Mary weeps uncontrollably. She is overwhelmed by losing him a second time. She was at the cross. She saw his wounds and his suffering and the hatred of the world directed at him. She heard his last words and his last breath. Now she has lost his body and cannot even pay her respects. All she can say through her tears is, "They have taken away my Lord!"

It was hearing him speak her name that made the difference in her. In this hearing, Mary becomes known as 'The Apostle to the Apostles'. She goes from "They have taken away my Lord" to "I have seen the Lord." She is not just reporting the facts of what she saw. She is proclaiming a transformed life, a relationship with the resurrected Lord.

## **Acts**

The Book of Acts begins with Peter speaking with power to a large crowd at Pentecost. "Know with certainty (he tells the crowd) that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified." It cuts them to the heart. Jesus on the cross was cut to the heart by a soldier's lance. Now it is the people who are cut to the heart. Mary's heart was broken. In all these cases, new life comes from broken hearts once the truth is known.

Peter says, "Save yourself from this corrupt generation." It's a good thing we don't live in a corrupt generation. Well, actually, all generations are corrupt. Every

generation is in need of saving. We baptized 11 people at our Easter Vigil and it was an amazing and joyful event. Imagine the Apostles baptizing 3000 that day.

### **Call To Conversion**

The people listening to Peter ask in desperation, "What should we do?" Is it too late to recognize him? Bishop McGrattan writes this year: The celebration of Easter takes us beyond the Cross of Good Friday, to the joy and hope that comes from knowing that the Risen Lord is truly present in the world and in the lives of believers. Initially, they did not recognize him. This was to signify the need to let go of their knowing him in the flesh so that they could become attached to him in his resurrected body, no longer bound by space or time. Christ has the power to transform our lives, to move us beyond the empty tomb to the hope of Easter belief.

Let us recognize our Lord once again, as if it is for the first time. The world wants us to shut up and pretend we don't know him. Instead, let us proclaim him Lord and Messiah, of our lives and for the world. Say to everyone, "I have seen the Lord." Our lives must be different than before if that resurrected life is to be transformative for us and the world.

We have been freed and are now being called by name to live in the freedom of knowing Christ. Let us be filled with joy. Let us enter into the resurrection. We need to get rid of some of the media noise so we can hear him call our name. Let us do all we can to recognize his voice when he calls us, so we can say with Mary of Magdala, "I have seen the Lord."

## **Key Passages**

**Entrance Antiphon:** *The water of wisdom will raise them up forever, alleluia.*

**Collect:** *O God, provide heavenly gifts, that your people may rejoice in heaven over what gladdens them now on earth.*

**Acts:** *On the day of Pentecost, Peter addressed the crowd: Know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified. The people were cut to the heart and said: Brothers, what should we do? Peter said: Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven. Save yourselves from this corrupt generation. That day about three thousand were added to their number.*

**Psalm:** *Truly the eye of the Lord is on those who hope in his steadfast love, to deliver their souls from death.*

**John:** *Mary Magdalene stood weeping outside the tomb. In the tomb she two angels in white, 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 turned, she saw Jesus standing there, but did not know that it was him. Jesus said to her: Why are you weeping? Supposing him to be the gardener she said: Tell me where you have laid him. Jesus said to her: Mary! Mary said: Rabbouni. Jesus said: Go tell my brothers I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God. Mary announced to the disciples: I have seen the Lord!*