

ST. MARY MAGDALENE

THE LESSON: JOHN 20

The Gospels identify St. Mary Magdalene as a disciple of Jesus “from whom he had cast out seven demons” (Mark 16:9). She also had the privilege of encountering the risen Lord and being sent to share the good news of his resurrection with the other disciples.

The early Church also connected St. Mary Magdalene with an unnamed (or differently identified) woman in the Gospels who anointed Jesus’ feet and wiped them with her hair. Those who witnessed this particular event were quick to judge the woman and try to send her away, but Jesus told them a parable to help them understand that this was a woman who’d had many sins forgiven, and so she responded with great love. Whereas, the person “who is forgiven little, loves little” (Luke 7:47).

Whether or not it actually was St. Mary Magdalene who washed Jesus’ feet, we know that she was one who had “loved much”. Together with some of the other women disciples, she followed in grief while her Lord was crucified and afterwards sought to anoint his body for burial... only to find no body in the tomb!

AT-HOME CHALLENGE

Each morning and evening, follow your own rule of prayer.

(IF YOU DON’T HAVE ONE, TRY SAYING THE MORNING AND EVENING PRAYERS FROM THE “FORMS OF PRAYER TO BE USED IN FAMILIES”, WHICH BEGINS ON PAGE 728 OF THE BCP. IF YOU DON’T HAVE A COPY, YOU CAN LOOK IT UP HERE: [HTTP://PRAYERBOOK.CA/RESOURCES/BCPONLINE/FAMILY-PRAYER.](http://PRAYERBOOK.CA/RESOURCES/BCPONLINE/FAMILY-PRAYER.))

Carve out a bit of extra time this week to reflect on your need for God. Are there ways in which you’ve come to believe that you can do it all on your own? Are there some parts of your life that you’ve designated as “off limits” to him? Take some time to acknowledge and repent of these things, remembering all that Jesus did in order to save you from your sin. Each one of us has been forgiven much: let us also “love him much”!

The following hymn was written by a young 19th century poet, William Featherston, when he was somewhere between the ages of 12 and 16. Finish your time of reflection by slowly praying through the hymn (either by reading or singing):

*My Jesus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine;
For Thee all the follies of sin I resign.
My gracious Redeemer, my Saviour art Thou;
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.*

*I love Thee because Thou has first loved me,
And purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree.
I love Thee for wearing the thorns on Thy brow;
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.*

*I'll love Thee in life, I will love Thee in death,
And praise Thee as long as Thou lendest me breath;
And say when the death dew lies cold on my brow,
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.*

*In mansions of glory and endless delight,
I'll ever adore Thee in heaven so bright;
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow;
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.*

- AND/OR -

Take some time to pray through the following collect.

O Almighty God, whose blessed Son did sanctify Mary Magdalene, and call her to be a witness to his resurrection: Mercifully grant that by thy grace we may be healed of all our infirmities, and always serve thee in the power of his endless life; who with thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, world without end. Amen.

(COLLECT FOR THE FEAST OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE, PAGE 286)

ST. MARY MAGDALENE

JOHN 20: **FROM GRIEF TO JOY**

¹Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb...

¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. ¹²And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. ¹³They 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." ¹⁴Having said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" 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." ¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me, for 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.'" ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"—and that he had said these things to her.