



## Fourth Sunday of Lent

### John 20:1, 11-18

*“Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance.*

*Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus’ body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.*

*They asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?”*

*“They have taken my Lord away,” she said, “and I don’t know where they have put him.” At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.*

*He asked her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?”*

*Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.”*

*Jesus said to her, “Mary. She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”). Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”*

*Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that he had said these things to her.” (John 20:1, 11-18)*

**Holy Lord Jesus, You, in obedience to the Father, suffered and died, taking the penalty of death for our sins. You rose again, defeating death, blessing us with salvation for our souls, leaving us with a debt that can never be repaid.**

**Mary’s experience at the tomb calls to mind the times we have felt lost because we needed You and could not find You. Mary did not recognize You because of her expectations, She was expecting to find Your body to prepare for burial. Instead she met You, the Risen Christ. Sometimes we do not recognize You because our**

**expectation are low. Lent is a time to for us to pause and meditate and rediscover the richness and love of Your sacrifice .**

**Forgive us when our faith sometimes becomes routine and our lives comfortable until the unexpected happens and what we thought was going to happen doesn't. We become anxious and tears flow. We cry out in distress, searching. When our tears are spent and questions unanswered we pace in confused silence until we hear You softly say our name. Joy fills our hearts and, like Mary, we hurry to tell others.**

**Lead us by Your Holy Spirit to never forget on Easter Sunday as the risen Christ is revealed to us we are being sent as He sent Mary to tell others the Good News. May we never take this blessing for granted and be strong courageous witnesses for You by what we do and say. All praise and glory and honor be Yours Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen**