

# Mary Magdalene and Her Rabboni at His Empty Tomb (John 20:10-18)

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**Guidelines:** Protect confidentiality and follow the leader's prompts

## **Lectio Divina Rhythms/Process (Repeat three times):**

- (a) Read the Scripture passage ("Lectio")
- (b) Reflect on the focus question below ("Meditatio")
- (c) Respond in quiet prayer/journaling ("Oratio")
- (d) Rest in God's invitation for you then pray/share out loud if you want ("Contemplatio")

**Introduction:** Mary Magdalene was a broken and sinful woman, harassed by seven demons and ostracized from society until she met Jesus and he healed her and set her free. She devoted her life to him and with some other women she followed him everywhere he traveled and provided for his needs and his ministry. All four Gospels feature Mary as a faithful friend and disciple to Jesus at his cross and empty tomb. She is the first to encounter the resurrected Jesus and the first evangelist/apostle of the Church. Some Bible scholars join with the ancient tradition in believing Mary Magdalene to be the woman who washed Jesus' feet with her tears and anointed them with her perfume (e.g., Mary of Bethany in Matthew 26 and John 12 and/or the sinful woman of Luke 7). Clearly, she had an intimate relationship with her Lord and Savior, the one she affectionately called, "Rabboni!"

**Opening Prayer:** "Where has my beloved gone? I miss my Rabboni, my dear Teacher and Lord." (Paraphrase of Mary Magdalene's words at the empty tomb; John 20:13, 15.)

## **Read Scripture: John 20 (NIV)**

10 Then the disciples went back to where they were staying. 11 [But] Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb 12 and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

13 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." 14 At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

15 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."

16 Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

17 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.'"

18 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.

**1st Reading:** What is one word or phrase the Holy Spirit impresses on you? Meditate on that.

**2nd Reading:** Enter into the Scripture passage. What do you feel? What specific situation in your life today relates? Write down a prayer or pray quietly.

**3rd Reading:** What is God's personal invitation for you from the Scripture? You can write down what God may be saying to you or a prayer of thanks. Or rest quietly in God.