

## 2022.04017 EASTER

### Liturgist - First Reading

*Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26*

<sup>1</sup> O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.<sup>2</sup> O give thanks to the God of gods, for his steadfast love endures forever. <sup>3</sup> O give thanks to the Lord of lords, for his steadfast love endures forever; <sup>4</sup> who alone does great wonders, for his steadfast love endures forever; <sup>5</sup> who by understanding made the heavens, for his steadfast love endures forever; <sup>6</sup> who spread out the earth on the waters, for his steadfast love endures forever; <sup>7</sup> who made the great lights. for his steadfast love endures forever; <sup>8</sup> the sun to rule over the day, for his steadfast love endures forever; <sup>9</sup> the moon and stars to rule over the night, for his steadfast love endures forever.

<sup>23</sup> It is he who remembered us in our low estate, for his steadfast love endures forever; <sup>24</sup> and rescued us from our foes, for his steadfast love endures forever; <sup>25</sup> who gives food to all flesh, for his steadfast love endures forever.<sup>26</sup> O give thanks to the God of heaven, for his steadfast love endures forever.

### The Word in Music

*choral anthem*

### - Gospel Reading

*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.*

A Word of God that is still speaking,  
Thanks be to God.

## Thoughts about an Imperfect Life and Faith

### "A Good Enough Faith"

#### Sermon in a sentence

This Lent, we have taken some time to turn ladder-climbing into garden-tending, nurturing our souls and embracing our holy, "good enough," lives. We have looked at our plain, ordinary lives and called them good enough. We have acknowledged that much of our lives feel out of control, and no amount of thinking positively gain controls, only when we learn to dance with it unfolding of that which is not ours to control do we find things are indeed good enough. Indeed, that endless climbing to achieve success, only point to our fear of failure, no matter how hard we try success in allusive. It is only when we stop, and take a deep breath do we see life, in all its beauty and grittiness is good enough.

#### Telling the Story/ Unpacking Scripture

I have often wondered about the interaction between Mary and Jesus in the garden. **How is that Mary didn't recognized Jesus?** She thought he was the gardener. **How is that possible?**

It had been a stressful couple of days. Between the parade with palms and donkey, to a Passover meal and Jesus saying some pretty strange things over bread and wine, I suspect Mary was exhausted. Then the garden arrest, the trial and finally Jesus' death. Mary has stayed close to Jesus during all of this.

She has experienced the frustration of need to get the body into a tomb, but not being able to anoint Jesus because the sabbath was upon them.

Now she has arisen early, perhaps, not even really slept because that is how grief is, so she does the only think can think to do, anointed her beloved Jesus. She sees the beauty of the day before her as well as the rawness of Christ death still playing in her mind. Perhaps all this has prevented her from see Jesus instead of the gardener. I image she felt so bad for confusing Jesus for the gardener, and yet Christ say you are good enough! Go carry a message that all the world will hear *"I have seen the Lord"*!

## SO WHAT?

I wonder if Mary seeing Jesus as a gardener was not a mistake at all. Kate Bowler in her book *Good Enough* says: Maybe cause where Jesus was crucified was a garden. A tiny, beautiful detail that reminds us that death is never too far from new life.

Jesus looks like his dad, the first gardener, who tended Eden barefoot.

Maybe Jesus looked like the new Adam, the head gardener for the new Eden of the new heaven and the new earth.

Maybe it's because he carries the pruning shears of the vinedresser, the careful tender of our souls, ready to pluck and plant, uproot, and cut back.

Maybe he looks ready to cultivate new life, to pull us towards the resurrection with his fingers digging in among the worms.

Or maybe this gardener looks like he knew something about hope- hope that Mary desperately needs. That we desperately need.

We know that seeds **have** to be buried, left for a time, hidden for our sight, trusting in just the right amount of water, air and time will create something new out of a single seed. Much like faith. Much like our life. We need the opportunity to be planted before we grow into the life that God has planned. We simply need to grow where we have been planted.

### **Tell them what you told them**

So perhaps a good enough faith is one that moves through the chronic nature of being incurably human with an eye for resurrection moments that assure us that this good enough life is worthy of our amazement, and it is enough.

AMEN