

1st Tuesday Easter I 2003

[Acts 2:36-41](#)

On the day of Pentecost, Peter said to the Jewish people,

"Let the whole house of Israel know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart,

and they asked Peter and the other Apostles, "What are we to do, my brothers?"

Peter said to them,

"Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of your sins;

and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

For the promise is made to you and to your children and to all those far off,

whomever the Lord our God will call."

He testified with many other arguments, and was exhorting them,

"Save yourselves from this corrupt generation."

Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand persons were added that day.

[John 20:11-18](#)

Mary Magdalene stayed outside the tomb weeping.

And as she wept, she bent over into the tomb and saw two angels in white sitting there, one at the head and one at the feet where the Body of Jesus had been.

And they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?"

She said to them, "They have taken my Lord, and I don't know where they laid him."

When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus there,

but did not know it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?"

Whom are you looking for?"

She thought it was the gardener and said to him,

"Sir, if you carried him away,

tell me where you laid him,

and I will take him."

Jesus said to her, "Mary!"

She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni," which means Teacher.

Jesus said to her, "Stop holding on to me,

for I have not yet ascended to the Father.

But go to my brothers and tell them,

'I am going to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Mary went and announced to the disciples,

"I have seen the Lord,"

and then reported what he had told her.

"Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about 3000 persons were added that day."

"Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni"

Our scriptures are speaking about the moment of faith, when people come to embrace the truth. In Acts, the Jewish people addressed by Peter were confronted with their need for the truth, but they were bewildered as to where to find it. The great apostle showed them. They repented and were baptized. That spirit-filled moment must have been powerful to account for 3000 being added.

Mary Magdalene had the same confusion. She was confronted with the tragedy of her beloved teacher's death. She can't see the truth until she is called by name, "Mary". Then she came to believe.

The Spirit calls out to us as a people like in Acts and also personally as in Mary's case. It is the work of the Spirit that gives us clear vision of the truth.

In both readings, however, it is clear that the truth demands our willful response. Our Easter response over these 50 days is one of celebration, joy and gratitude for the gift of truth and what the resurrection means for our eternity and our relationship with our creator.

Are we ready to accept the joy that comes with the truth? Are we ready each day to embrace those moments of God-provided faith? Are we ready to respond and act in this world having been provided with the truth?