

A Prayer for Easter Eyes

My Lord, Jesus

You have risen to new life!

*Give me new eyes
with which to recognize your
presence in the world around me.*

*Sharpen my vision so that I see
beyond the ordinary events
of each day and into the
extraordinary reality of your grace.*

*Brighten my view of the world
with renewed hope in the
coming of your Kingdom.*

*Soften my gaze so that I view
others with the kind of tenderness
and compassion you showed
to so many.*

*May each day
of this Easter season
provide glimpses of your glory.*

*In your sacred name, I pray.
Amen.*



Graphic source: www.clipartkey.com

Jesus Lives!

Let us rejoice!



Christ is risen from the dead. 1 CORINTHIANS 15:20 (NKJV)

Our Lady of the Eucharist Parish

April 04, 2020

EASTER SUNDAY

THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

The Right to Hope

At dawn the women went to the tomb. There the angel says to them: *Do not be afraid. He is not here; for he has risen.* They hear the words of life even as they stand before a tomb. And then they meet Jesus, the giver of all hope, who confirms the message and says: Do not be afraid. Do not be afraid, do not yield to fear: This is the message of hope. It is addressed to us, today.

On Easter we acquire a fundamental right that can never be taken away from us: the right to hope. It is a new and living hope that comes from God. It is not mere optimism; it is not a pat on the back or an empty word of encouragement, uttered with an empty smile. No! It is a gift from heaven, which we could not have earned on our own.... Jesus plants in our hearts the conviction that God is able to make everything work unto good, because even from the grave he brings life. The grave is the place where no one who enters ever leaves. But Jesus emerged for us; he rose for us, to bring life where there was death, to begin a new story in the very place where a stone had been placed. He who rolled away the stone that sealed the entrance of the tomb can also remove the stones in our hearts. So, let us not give in to resignation; let us not place a stone before hope.... God is faithful. He did not abandon us; he visited us and entered into our situations of pain, anguish, and death. His light dispelled the darkness of the tomb: today he wants that light to penetrate even to the darkest corners of our lives. Dear sister, dear brother, even if in your heart you have buried hope, do not give up: God is greater. Darkness and death do not have the last word.

All you have to do is open your heart in prayer and roll away, however slightly, that stone placed at the entrance to your heart so that Jesus' light can enter. You only need to ask him: Jesus, come to me amid my fears and tell me too: Courage! With you, Lord, we will be tested but not shaken. And, whatever sadness may dwell in us, we will be strengthened in hope, since with you the cross leads to the Resurrection, because you are with us in the darkness of our nights; you are certainty amid our uncertainties, the word that speaks in our silence, and nothing can ever rob us of the love you have for us. Pope Francis

Source: *Magnificat*, Holy Week 2021 Edition, pg 261

Jesus said to her,

"I am the resurrection and the life.

*Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,
and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.*

John 11:25-26

Rejoice and be glad!

As I ponder Easter Sunday's gospel, my attention is riveted by Mary Magdalene. How emotional her "resurrection" weekend must have been.

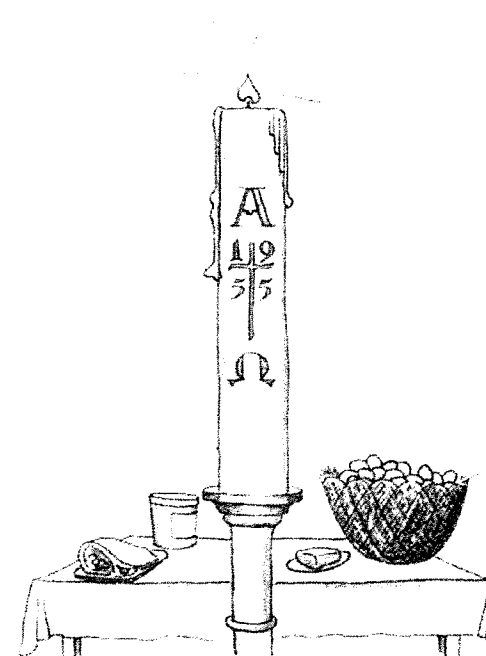
Mary Magdalene was an avid follower of Jesus, teacher and prophet. She walked the Way of the Cross and witnessed his passion and death. She must, indeed, have mourned the loss of her friend and mentor. I cannot begin to fathom her sense of desperation on that first Holy Saturday.

A woman of courage, she dared to rise early on the third day and visit Jesus' tomb. She wept when she found that his body had disappeared and she no longer knew where he lay. Surely she had a sense of utter hopelessness. When Jesus appeared to her, she did not recognize him until he spoke her name, "Mary!" and her desperation turned to utter joy!

Lord Jesus, I have mourned many losses in my lifetime and I have experienced a vast range of feelings. Resentfully, I have often asked, "Why did you let this happen?" When things do not go my way, teach me to accept your will gracefully and always "to rejoice and be glad." Thank you for showering me with endless blessings. Barbara K. D'arbois

Source: *Living with Christ*, Holy Week 2021 Edition, pg 160

Meaning of the Paschal (Easter) Candle



WAX CANDLE - According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, "The pure wax extracted by bees from flowers symbolizes the pure flesh of Christ received from His Virgin Mother, the wick signifies the soul of Christ, and the flame represents His divinity."

LIGHT – The light of Christ that shines in the darkness

ALPHA (Α) & OMEGA (Ω) – Christ is the beginning and end of all things

FIRE – It represents Christ's resurrection

CROSS – It represents Christ and his eternal light

GRAINS OF INCENSE – They represent the 5 wounds of Christ

YEAR – It reminds us of God's presence here and now.

Graphic Source: clipart-library.com

Source: www.churchpop.com