

Easter Vigil, Year C  
The Reverend D. S. Mote, PhD  
St Paul's Episcopal Church, Key West, FL  
April 17, 2022  
Acts 10:34-43  
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
1 Corinthians 15:19-26  
John 20:1-18

## Resurrection

I love Mary Magdalene. Think about it for a second, that account that you just heard. If not for her, where would we be? We wouldn't be here, that's where. Mary Magdalene, the apostle to the apostles.

Peter and the disciple whom Jesus loved—pretty sure that's John—went to the tomb, looked in, saw evidence that the one who had been laid there was no longer there, looked around, went home.

Mary Magdalene lingered longer. Just like Peter and John, she looked into the tomb, but when she looked she saw not only grave wrappings and the head linen laid in one place by itself—don't you love that detail?—she saw heavenly messengers, angels with a message for her. And not only did she hear their message, she did what they said. She went out to remind the others, “He told us this would happen. We didn't understand before. Now it all makes sense.”

The deepest grief of their lives turned into the most impossible joy. And yet, what she knows is he's not there, and what she doesn't know is where is he? She stands weeping, still in grief, still in shock, still in mourning, having heard again some inkling of this impossibly good news but not yet able to process it. Crying, weeping. The very one she's looking for is right there; she doesn't recognize him at first. Then he says her name. He calls her by name, and she recognizes his voice if not yet his resurrected appearance.

What great joy comes to her. And then what does she do? Does she keep it to herself? No! She goes on to where she knows they are, and she schools the previous apostles, the ones previously sent, because she has become in fact the one sent by the Lord himself to them: the apostle to the apostles bringing the best news of all time, the impossibly good news. And what is it?

Love wins! Life wins! Love is stronger than death! Life is stronger than death! Love wins ultimately; ultimately victorious. Even when we don't think it can possibly be true, in the end, love wins!

God is love. God loves us and demonstrated it in the person, life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ our Savior. Does that sound like good news to you? Somebody say amen.

If that is good news to you, you've come to the right place. That is the message we declare here day after day, week after week, morning and evening. God's mercies are fresh. We embrace them. We delight in them. We accompany one another; we companion one another all the way home. And we practice it in this place day after day after day, week after week after week.

This is not the be all and the end all. This is the holy filling station where you come to receive what you need to live out the risen life of Christ our Savior every day.

Everyone is invited to this banquet and this table which Jesus has made available to everyone. Come here and be fed. Draw strength from the resurrected power of his resurrection life which is not only his life but because of him is now our life. Come share his life, this morning, this day, this Eastertide, this entire year, your entire life. Our life, his life, our life together. Thanks be to God. Christ is risen! Alleluia!