

Homily for 2nd Sunday of Easter
April 19, 2020



Mary of
Magdala

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Ecumenical Catholic Community

In this Gospel Jesus comes again as the Divine Christ. Christ appears from nowhere to his disciples, his sisters and brothers, who are so frightened for their lives that they are ‘sheltering in place.’

He says “Peace be with you... Peace be with you...” He breathes the Holy Spirit into them.

How does this gospel and our experience of faith inform us in our time of fear for ourselves, our families and friends, and for the entire human population of our planet? When we deeply consider how many souls are on their final journey to their everlasting ‘loving’ place, how can we now be part of the Peace that the Divine Christ brought *then* to his disciples?

Christ appears, is here with “Peace be with you.” The disciples were afraid of those outside the door ready to kill them. Jesus the Christ says: “Peace be with you.” The marks of his suffering calm them down: Thomas is calmed too. They know it is him whom they know: they feel Christ. The disciples need this personal experience to believe in the Risen Christ. They rejoice that it is Jesus, their Rabbi, their teacher, their friend, their brother – Halleluiah!

It is this direct encounter that brings the grace of true faith.

While we are centuries from Jesus of Nazareth, we are graced with the Spirit of eternal Peace each moment. “Blessed are those who have not seen and believe.” God is faithful again and again / as we know at least from the time of Abraham.

The first hymn we sang, *Ye Sons and Daughters*, brings us closer to the Easter Mystery of who we are. Sons and daughters, a family metaphor, a closeness, closer than blood close. God is closer to us than blood.

In Matthew 28:7 and Mark 16:7, the angel said to Mary of Magdala at the tomb, “He is not here... he is going before you to Galilee, there you will see him.”

We are assured and comforted that Christ intends our relationship with him to be immediate and most important. When he rises, it seems Christ immediately comes to us. Committed relationship has not skipped a beat. Death cannot separate us from the love God has for us. Death is not the end.

Resurrection is with us, an immediate meeting in Peace! Halleluiah!

In today’s reading, *An Amazing Presence*, Macrina Wiederkehr, says it again: “I am touched to the core with a presence... a loving plan... someone is calling me forth... I am standing in grace... goodness... God... you breath out hope...”

Christ is breathing that same spirit into each of us, individually and gathered together here now on zoom. We are here with like mind, hearts open and hungry for the Peace that Christ offers.

Christ’s rising and eternal presence within all his disciples gives us hope. There is no more wondering by the disciples if their teacher has abandoned them in his death. Suddenly, it is Christ. Everyone is filled with hope. John’s message in Chapter 14: 6, I am of the Way, the Life and the Truth all makes sense now. The sisters and brothers have hope: “they have been touched to the core with a presence,” they recognize the Spirit of God, the Divine Christ.

Let’s take a moment to feel the Peace and Hope of Christ in our own bodies. Take a breath. Breathe in Peace and Breathe out Hope for the world.

Lord, help us be open to the core of this Easter Season Truth that your Peace is with us, in us, around us: we stand in It. We pray this Easter Season brings us to a deeper experiential relationship with the Spirit of God, one of submission to the will and love of that Spirit. May we remain open as Christ continues to reveal God to us as relationship. Amen.