

EASTER ECUMENICAL SUNRISE SERVICE

On the first day of the week,
Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark,
& saw the stone removed from the tomb.

**So she ran & went to Simon Peter & to the other disciple,
the one whom Jesus loved, & told them,**

“They have taken the Lord from the tomb, & we don’t know where they put him.”

So Peter & the other disciple went out & came to the tomb. They both ran,
but the other disciple ran faster than Peter & arrived at the tomb first;
he bent down & saw the burial cloths there, **but** did not go in.

**When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb
& saw the burial cloths there, & the cloth that had covered his head,
not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place.**

Then the other disciple also went in,
the one who had arrived at the tomb first, & he saw & believed.

For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead.

Then the disciples returned home.

[John 20:1-10]

Meanwhile, Mary stayed outside the tomb, weeping.

**Even as she wept, she stooped to look inside,
& there she saw two angels in dazzling white robes.**

**One was seated at the head & the other at the foot of the place
where the body of Jesus had been.**

They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She answered,

“They have taken my Lord, & I do not know where they have put him.”

She had no sooner said this than she turned around & saw Jesus standing there.

But she didn’t know it was Jesus. —He said to her,

“Woman, why are you weeping? Who is it you are looking for?”

She thought he was the gardener, so she said,

“Sir, if you are the one who carried him off, tell me where you have laid him & I will take him away.”

Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned to him & said, in Hebrew,

“Rabbouni,” which means “my teacher.” **Jesus then said,**

“**Do not cling to me,** for I have not yet ascended to the Father.

Rather, **go to the others** and tell them,

‘I am ascending to my Father & your Father, to my God & your God!’”

Mary of Magdala went & announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord.”

Then —she told them— what he had said to her.

[John 20, 11-18]



♪ Resucitó, Resucitó, Resucitó, Aleluya /Aleluya, Aleluya, Aleluya, Resucitó !

[Anna] The front cover of the Magnificat, a missalette that Peter receives, features a detail from a 16th century fresco called “Noli Me Tangere” by Franciabigio (pictured above) that illustrates the moment in this morning’s Gospel where Jesus says —



‘Do not cling to me’.

What mysterious words for Jesus to speak on Easter morning!

Translations vary, **but** the original Greek tends to confirm the translation

“Touch me not!”

Mary Magdalene has just heard her first name uttered by a voice
that turns her heart upside down; overcome with happiness

a moment after thinking that she was forever doomed to sadness,
she recognizes her beloved Master **alive!**

Her hands quickly reach out to take hold of him & embrace him,

—to weep in his arms, —to weep again every tear that is within her,

but —they are tears of joy now,the greatest joy that there can be on earth,

—the joy of the Resurrection that is so beautifully expressed in the words &

music of that song— **Resucitó!**

But if you look a little closer to the fresco & listen to the Gospel there’s also

Christ’s glorified hand, forever marked by the wound of the nail that pierced it.

It stops her in her tracks, while he says:

Touch me not! — Do not cling to me! — Do not hold on to me!

[Peter] Yet we all have a great desire to **“touch”** the one we love even without seeing him. Certainly Christ remains present among us every day until the end of time, **but** in a new way in every encounter with each other, /in the Word / in the Eucharist/ & in creation. We would like to permanently experience the joy expressed in the words & music of Resucitó! We are tempted to freeze the **JOY** so it is always accessible to us – but Jesus says to us & to Mary of Magdala, **“Do not cling to me, —Do not hold on to me.”**

The prohibition **Touch me not!** is connected to the victory of the New Commandment in each of our lives: **Love one another as I have loved you**

& with the efficacy of our sacramental worship as a beloved community.

Touch me not! then means:

“Go to the others, our brothers and sisters, and then, yes, touch me!

And never stop touching me, because whatever you do to the least of them,

you do to me!”

The process of darkness to dawn, of winter to spring, of dying & rising continues in our lives & in the history of humanity. We cannot freeze the process, but we can continue to sing all through it. It is the truth of the Spanish verse we will sing —they mean

“if we die with him, we will rise with him, we will sing with him”.

♪ Si con Él morimos, con Él vivimos, con Él cantamos. Aleluya!

♪ Resucitó, Resucitó, Resucitó, Aleluya /Aleluya, Aleluya, Aleluya, Resucitó

Resucitó ! ♪

Sunrise at Huntersland — Easter Sunday 2017



♪ Morning Has Broken, Like the First Morning ♪