

HE IS NOT HERE!

Where is he? Where is Jesus, the one from Nazareth? Some say he is the Messiah, the Anointed One, the Christ who is to come. Where is He?

Early in the morning on that first day of the week just as the sun rose, some women including Mary Magdalene, made their way to the tomb where Jesus' body had been placed. Upon arriving they found that the stone had somehow been rolled away from the entrance of the tomb. They looked inside and found that the body of Jesus was not there. The burial shroud was there and the other cloths but no body. All manner of thoughts raced through their minds. "Where was his body? What happened to him? Does anybody know? Was anybody here to see what happened, what happened to him? Why would someone steal his body?"

"Where is He?"

"You there, are you the gardener? Did you see anything? Do you know what happened? Where could he be? Where is he?" And the gardener who was not a gardener looked at Mary Magdalene and said simply: "Mary!" And in that moment she knew. It was Jesus. He was right here, right here with her. He whom she saw beaten and exhausted slowly die before her eyes, is now alive standing before her once again. But this time, very different.

And He has been here ever since. He lives! He is not dead! He is not gone! He is here! He was dead. He was gone but He isn't gone anymore. He has been raised up. He is risen! He is risen from the dead!

"Do not cling to me, Mary." You are not going to be able to relate to me like that anymore. I am changed. I have been transformed. You will have to learn a new way to be with me. Though I have died, there is a love in me which can never die. My Spirit is stronger than the grave. And my Spirit will live in you. My Spirit is my gift to you. Life is my gift, life even in the face of death. Do you believe?" "Yes Lord we have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God, the One who was coming into the world." "I am here. I am present. I am really present. I am the Real Presence." ALL IS EUCHARIST! Hope has been restored because life can now last forever, despite death. Happy Easter everybody!