



Along a Paschal Journey

Easter Sunday: New life ... but different

“Let him Easter in us, dispel the dimness in us” GM Hopkins

When we are journeying through the Triduum, we can lose sight of the fullness of the Easter experience because we might not notice or have enough opportunity to really pause on everything that is taking place. When we spend time with these Easter stories, as we have done over the past few days, what we discover is that Easter was not a joyful experience at first for Jesus' followers. The discovery of the empty tomb and the encounter with Jesus being alive again did not bring immediate joy. It brought fear, confusion and disorientation.

Easter can be regarded as a threshold and transitional time. Just like Jesus' followers, we have these disorienting or disruptive experiences in our lives that may not automatically make sense, that we really can't understand, yet we know that something is radically different. Our life is different from anything that we might have ever experienced or understood.

The women went to the tomb at dawn to complete the burial because they could not do so two days earlier. They arrive and it's empty. Then there is an experience where Mary mistakes the risen Jesus for a gardener because they're in a garden (John 20:11-18) because she has no other category into which to put any other meaning. There is no way that she would've thought that it was Jesus.

In our own lives Easter experiences can also be disruptive. They disrupt our sense of reality and the way we understand the world. Easter experiences are also often transitional and we don't always immediately feel joy. We know that something is different, but what that difference means and the implications of it are not always immediately clear. Just like Jesus' followers in their encounter with the resurrected Jesus, we know that we will be changed forever and that we must live into this new life.



[Click here to play the video](#)

The Magdalene's Blessing for Easter Day

Jan Richardson

You hardly imagined standing here,
everything you ever loved suddenly returned to you,
looking you in the eye and calling your name.

And now you do not know how to abide this hole
in the center of your chest, where a door slams shut
and swings open at the same time,
turning on the hinge of your aching
and hopeful heart.

I tell you,
this is not a banishment from the garden.
This is an invitation, a choice, a threshold, a gate.

This is your life calling to you from a place you could
never have dreamed,
but now that you have glimpsed its edge,
you cannot imagine choosing any other way.

So let the tears come as anointing,
as consecration, and then let them go.
Let this blessing gather itself around you.
Let it give you what you will need for this journey.

You will not remember the words - they do not matter.
All you need to remember is how it sounded when you stood
in the place of death and heard the living call your name.

(From *Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons*)

Considering the transitional and transformative experience that Easter offers us, today you are invited to reflect on the experiences in your life and the world in which we are all living through these questions:

**Recall Easter experiences in your own life and the
resurrections that followed. In what ways were you made
anew? In what ways were your perceptions, assumptions and
understanding of reality changed?**

**In what ways is this happening now to you?
To your community?**

