



*Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher).
- John 20:15–16*

DEVOTIONAL

Mary mistakes Jesus for the gardener until he says her name. This moment is resurrection's first tenderness in John's Gospel. The resurrection is not marked by a proclamation or a lightning bolt, but by a voice speaking one name with love.

Resurrection is not an escape from the world. It is God's insistence that the world can be remade. Mary's grief is not erased; it is met. And then she is sent. Resurrection turns mourners into witnesses, not because they have it together, but because they have seen something that changes what they thought was possible.

I wonder where I have declared something dead too soon. A relationship. A community. My own capacity for joy, or for courage. Easter doesn't promise an easy road ahead. Jesus still bears scars, but it promises that death does not get the last word.

So today, we say it plainly: Christ is risen. We can get up. We can begin again.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Step outside, even briefly. Look for something living, a bud, a bird, a patch of green, and say, "Christ is risen," and let your body hear it.

CLOSING PRAYER

Risen Christ, speak my name again. Wake up what has gone quiet in me. Send me as a witness, not with swagger, but with steadiness and joy. Alleluia. Amen.



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