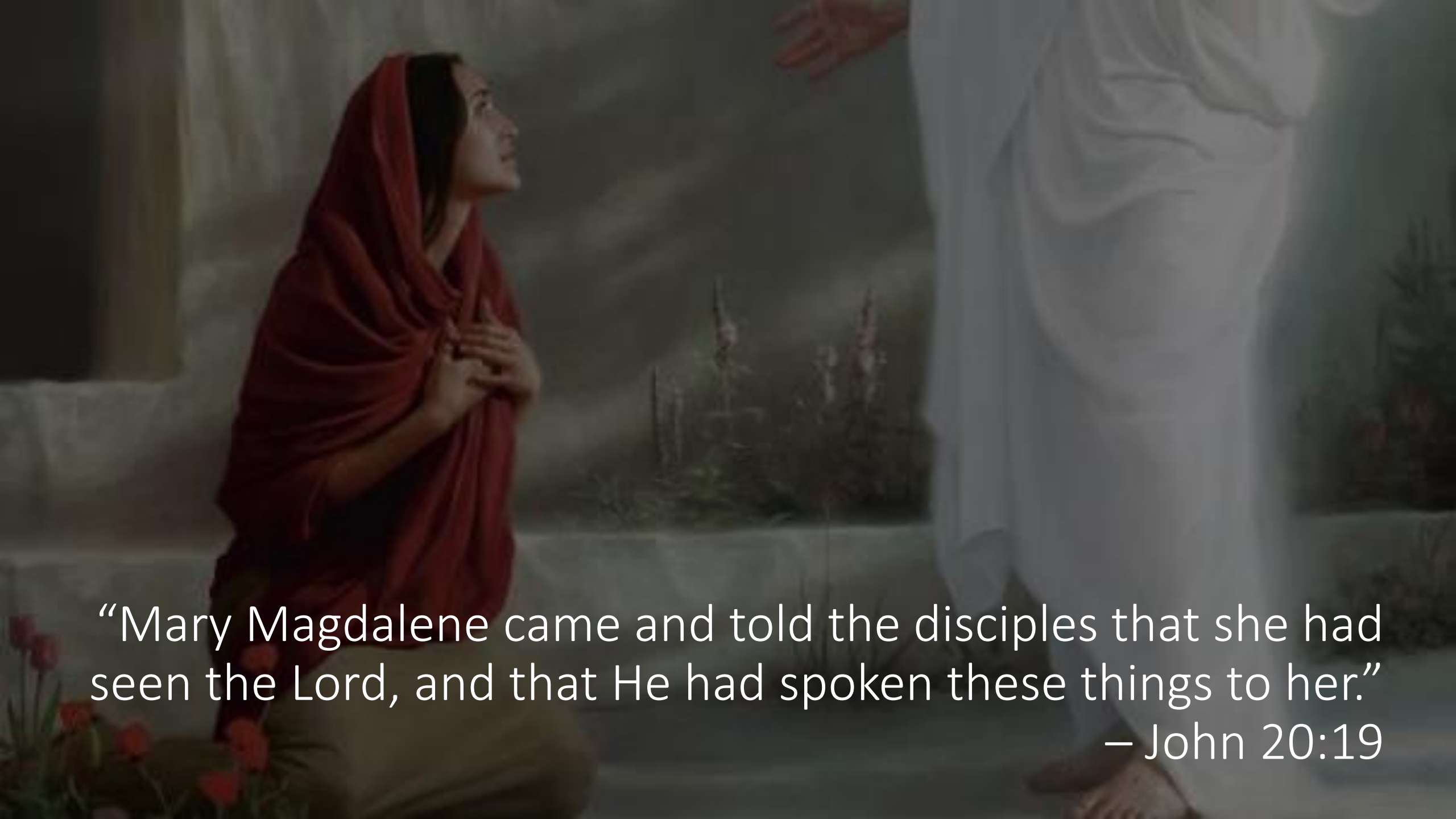




“Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that He had spoken these things to her.”
— John 20:19



Feast of the Resurrection
2021

The Joy of the Resurrection



1. Victory over Death

- He took our fallen nature and raised it in Him
 - Barabbas
- “Death is swallowed up in victory. O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?” (1 Cor. 15:54-55)
- “*For there is no death for Your servants, but a departure.*” (Litany of the Departed)



2. The Gates of Hades and Paradise were Opened

- Prior to the Resurrection all humanity was condemned to Hades
 - “For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.” (Ps. 16:10)
- The Lord Christ has the keys to both Paradise and Hades
 - “I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.” (Rev. 1:18)



2. The Gates of Hades and Paradise were Opened

- *“He led Hades captive and crushed the brass doors. He utterly broke the bars of iron and, for us, exchanged punishment for salvation.”* (All You Heavenly Orders, Liturgy of the Word)
- **“Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”**
(Lk. 23:43)



3. Our sins can be transformed to holiness

- “Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.” (Lk. 10:19)
- EX: Saul to St. Paul
- EX: St. Peter



4. Balances Scales

- Injustice will be rightly justified
- EX: Susanna
- EX: Rich Man and Lazarus
- There is no room for despair



5. Reconciled to the Father

- EX: The Lost Son
- “For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity...He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near.”
(Eph. 2:14-15, 17)



How can we express our joy?

1. Praise God
 - “...speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord...” (Eph. 5:19)
2. Gather and share your joy
3. Partaking of His Body and Blood
 - “What shall I render to the Lord for everything which He has done unto me? I shall take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord.” (Ps. 115 LXX)

