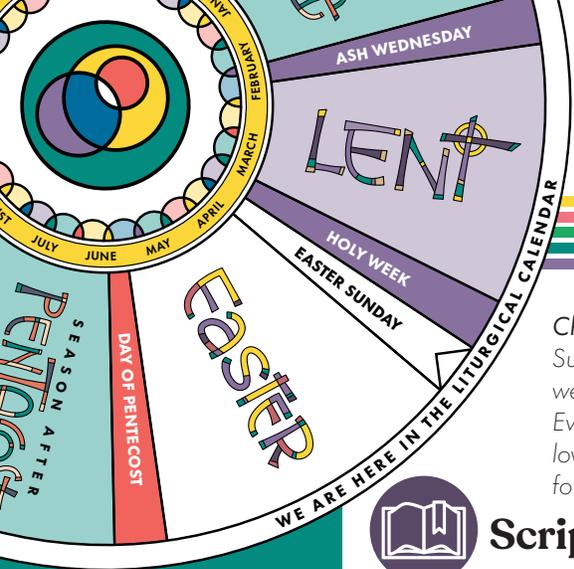


John 20:1-18

Easter Sunday



Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen, indeed! Eastertide is a period of 50 days, beginning on Easter Sunday and ending at Pentecost, when we celebrate the birth of the Church. During Eastertide, we celebrate the Risen Christ and imagine how we might live as Easter people. Rachel Held Evans wrote, "God showed us how to heal instead of kill, how to mend instead of destroy, how to love instead of hate, how to live instead of long for more. When we nailed God to a tree, God forgave. And when we buried God in the ground, God got up."



Scripture

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" 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). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.



Questions

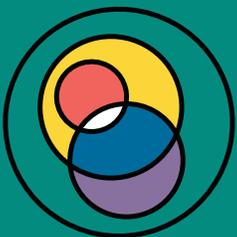
- Why didn't Mary recognize Jesus at first? What helps her identify him?
- How is Mary's experience at the tomb different from Peter's and the other disciple's? How does each respond to Jesus' resurrection?
- Mary fulfilled a special role Jesus gave her in this story. Why was the task Jesus gave her important?
- If you were sharing good news with someone about Jesus like Mary did, what might you tell them about Jesus that is good news?
- We celebrate Easter for more than just one day. In fact, we celebrate the Easter season, or Eastertide, for 50 days until the Day of Pentecost. What are some ideas for how we can keep remembering and celebrating Easter in the days ahead?

Look it Up!

Look up Julian of Norwich, a woman who lived in England in the Middle Ages. She had visions of Jesus and shared his good news through her writings, much like Mary Magdalene shared the good news of Jesus' resurrection on Easter morning.



mini
REVOLUTIONS





Activity

Talk as a group about some of the different ways big news is shared in our world today. For example: television, social media, phones, newspapers, etc.

After seeing the empty tomb, Mary couldn't send a group text to the disciples; she had to run to where they were staying and then run all the way back to the tomb with them. Then, after the disciples left and Mary saw with her own eyes Jesus had come back to life—just as he said—she couldn't live stream this incredible news. She had to run all the way back to the disciples again to preach this message!

This activity invites participants to embody the physical experience of Mary that Sunday morning, racing to deliver their message.

Divide participants into groups of four to five and assign the participants in each group a number: 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5. Then split the groups in half, placing those with odd numbers on one side of the room and those with even numbers on the other side. Each group should create a "lane" so the odd number and even number of participants are across from each other.

Think of a short message for the groups to deliver and share it with participant #1 from each group.

Some examples:

- The tomb is empty! Can you believe it?
- I thought I saw a gardener, but it turned out to be Jesus!
- I don't know how this is possible, but Jesus is alive!

When you say, "Go!" participant #1 will quickly move across the room and whisper the message to participant #2. Then, participant #2 will quickly move back across the room and whisper the message to participant #3. Continue this back-and-forth pattern with participants #4 and #5. Then, the last participant on each team must share the message out loud and compare how close they are to the original message.

Alternate Activity

Materials:

Dice

Mary had exciting and important news to share with the disciples, so she used a big, loud voice to tell them the good news of Jesus' resurrection. Sometimes a big, loud voice is just what we need. Other times, we need to use an inside voice or whisper. Talk about the spaces where you can use different voice volumes (loud/quiet, inside/outside, talking voice/whisper), then practice voice regulation and volume control through this fun game!

This activity can be done as a large group or split into smaller groups. Ask everyone to think about a time they saw God in the world or people around them. Maybe a friend showed them kindness at school, or a grownup comforted them when they were scared.

Before sharing their story, participants must first roll the dice. The number rolled is how they must use their voice to tell their story.

- 1. Use a silly voice
- 2. Speak slowly
- 3. Whisper
- 4. Talk really fast
- 5. Use an inside voice
- 6. Sing



Micropractice

The good news of Easter morning is that when we feel discouraged, even when facing death, there is always hope! When you wake up and think about the day ahead, speak some hopes to God about your day.

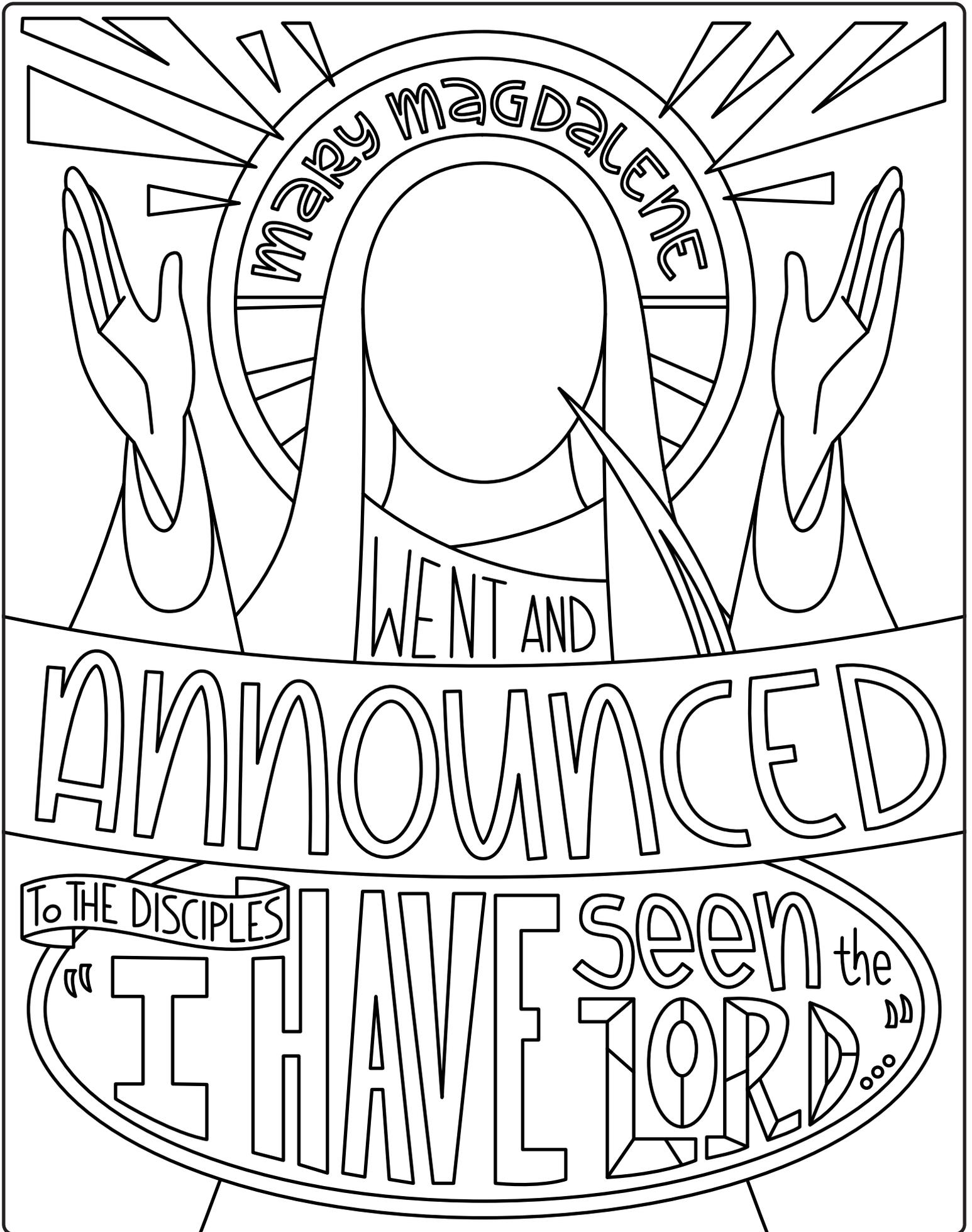


Download a graphic to share with your community and on social media. You can download it here: illstrtdm.in/minirevCEaster



Prayer

God of life, we praise you, for you are more powerful than death, and your love has changed the world! May we, like Mary Magdalene, stay curious and look for you in the people and places all around us. Amen.



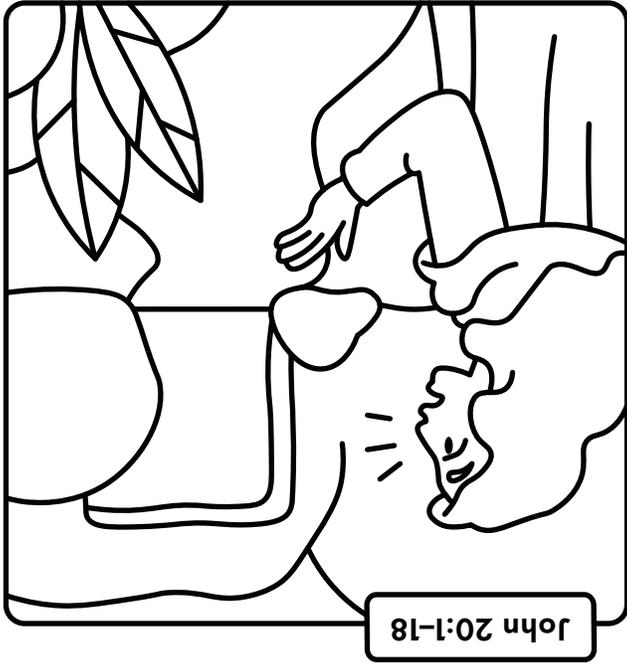
Mary Magdalene

WENT AND

ANNOUNCED

TO THE DISCIPLES

"I HAVE SEEN THE LORD"



1. One early morning after Jesus died, Mary Magdalene went to his tomb, but the stone in front had been moved. She ran to tell Peter and another disciple, who ran inside the tomb and saw Jesus' body was not there.



2. When the disciples saw Jesus' body was gone, they believed Jesus had come back to life, just as Jesus said. But Mary stayed outside the tomb crying. When she looked inside she saw two angels. They asked her why she was crying.



4. Mary was so happy she wanted to hold onto Jesus, but he told her not to. Instead, he told her to go tell all the disciples he had risen and was ascending to God. Mary went and told the disciples, "I have seen the Lord."



3. She said she was sad Jesus' body was missing. Just then, she turned and saw someone she thought was the gardener. But it was Jesus! Jesus called her by name. She recognized him and called him, "Teacher!"