



Daily Reflections

April 22, 2019

Scripture

Matthew 28: 8-15

Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went away quickly from the tomb,
fearful yet overjoyed,

and ran to announce the news to his disciples.

And behold, Jesus met them on their way and greeted them.

They approached, embraced his feet, and did him homage.

Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid.

Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee,

and there they will see me."

While they were going, some of the guard went into the city
and told the chief priests all that had happened.

The chief priests assembled with the elders and took counsel;
then they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers,

telling them, "You are to say,

'His disciples came by night and stole him while we were asleep.'

And if this gets to the ears of the governor,
we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.”

The soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed.

And this story has circulated among the Jews to the present day.

Our Scripture Church

Why after such a glorious celebration of Easter Sunday do we encounter a story about lies and bribes? Because Matthew wants us to know that even though Jesus’ death and resurrection destroyed the ultimate power of sin and death over us, the effects of evil remain and will do so until He returns at the end of time. However, we do not have to succumb to sin and evil. We have a choice and the power to maintain that choice with the help of God’s Grace. We have been redeemed. Now it’s like to act like it.

Food for your Journey

Barbara K. Lundblad, in her article “God’s resurrection justice”, recalls growing up on a grade-B dairy farm in Iowa, when it was illegal to sell margarine tinted yellow to look like butter. (Without food coloring added, margarine is as white as lard.) One could buy margarine in a white lump in a plastic bag that also contained a bright red-orange pellet of coloring, then knead that into the lump to make the color more appetizing.

“My dad barred oleo from our house, but Grandma Lundblad dared to buy a package now and then,” she writes. “Sometimes when I was staying with her, she let me squeeze the bag. I’d press my fingers into the bright red-orange dot until it broke open inside the bag. Then I’d keep squeezing until that bright spot of color spread throughout the whole lump, turning it into beautiful yellow almost-butter.”

Lundblad wonders: “Could Easter be like that? The bright light of resurrection didn’t stay in the tomb. That light-giving light didn’t stay in one place but spread to Mary Magdalene and the other Mary. ‘Jesus is not here,’ the angel told them. ‘Jesus is going ahead of you to Galilee.’ The resurrection light transformed them and overcame whatever fear was in their hearts. They couldn’t stay at the tomb even though they might have wanted to reassure themselves by seeing that Jesus’ body wasn’t there. Resurrection couldn’t

contain Jesus' body. The women ran from the tomb with resurrection in their hearts. They couldn't keep the news to themselves."

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear God, I want to do good and to live a holy life. When I find myself tempted to act in a manner which runs contrary to the Gospel, help me to resist. May I keep my heart united with the heart of Jesus at all times. Amen