

STATION XIII – JESUS BODY IS ENTOMBED

So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb. *Matthew 27: 59-61*

They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there. *John 19:40-42*

WAITING

The passion has dimmed but not gone out. Its focus will rest in the tomb, outwardly less ardent but not extinguished. The grief outside the tomb is sacrament of the fire that still burns in the heart of God. The rock tomb will be womb-overturned-the life and heat within grown cool. The tendrils of life are still present, though they, too, have been turned and reversed, to infuse life again into what seems dead to the world. The tunnel of life is stopped for a season; the valve of the heart momentarily closed, awaiting the beat of new life.

STATION XIV – THE LORD IS RISEN

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.” *Matthew 28:1-10*

RESURRECTION

Mary Magdalene and the other Mary go to the tomb to care for Jesus’ body. One can only imagine their grief over what has happened to their friend and teacher. Not only have they lost their beloved Jesus, but they also have lost hope in what might have been, in the promises he embodied.