

## MARY MAGDALENE – A WOMAN OF THE CHURCH

*Suggestions for environment and needs: Globe, Bible and 6 candles. One candle is lit at the very beginning and represents the Christ candle. The other candles represent the continents where Dominicans are present and are lit during the prayer service. In part 4, following Reading 4, there are reflection questions for discussion should you choose to use this service in a group.*

### CALL TO PRAYER:

Leader:

Take a moment to quiet ourselves... to let ourselves be present to this time we are spending together ... to give our body, mind and spirit a moment to catch up with each other ... a moment to sit in the Holy Stillness of God's presence.

**Opening Hymn:** Choose a song that the group is familiar with.  
(*Gather Us In* or *We walk In Faith* (v 1 and 4))

[Gather Us In - YouTube](#) Original from Album, with words  
[Gather Us In \(Marty Haugen\) - The Heralds Choir of St Mary's Music Ministries - YouTube](#)

Mixed voices with words

[We Walk by Faith - YouTube](#) -original from album

### Leader:

We gather in prayer to honor Mary Magdalene is named Witness to the Resurrection and Patron of the Dominican Order. Mary Magdalen was very much a woman of her time and is a woman of our time.

In the Orthodox tradition she is honored as one of the Myrrhbearers along with Joanna, Susanna and the other women who went to the tomb to anoint the body of Jesus.

We also gather to continue our celebration of the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Dominican Sisterhood in the United States.

### READING 1. Historical Connection of the name Mary Magdalene.

As we celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary we may not know that the first group of women in Springfield, KY who were admitted and

professed into the Dominican Order, were given the name Dominicans of St. Mary Magdalene in 1822. The group was legalized by the State of Kentucky in 1839. It held that name until 185, when the name was legally changed to the Literary Society of St. Catharine of Sienna. So, the Sisters called Mary Magdalene their namesake for nearly 30 years.

Why the name change?

There are two “urban legends” around the name change.

In Louisville, Kentucky the Sisters of the Good Shepherd were invited to open a Magdalene Laundry around 1843. The names Magdalene Laundry and Magdalene Community gave rise to much confusion. In 1851, the sisters petitioned the Sate of Kentucky for a legal name change. That was granted and the name of the Dominicans of St. Mary Magdalene was changed to Dominicans of St. Catharine of Sienna.

The other legend says that a young women went to the Magdalene Laundry in Louisville, thinking she was joining the convent and discovered she was in a home for unwed mothers. When the sisters realized the confusion, they asked for the name change. They quickly took the young woman to the right place.

Name is so important and being recognized and called by name was a critical moment in the real Mary Magdalene’s life. Take a moment to recall the times you have been called by name.

Pause

### Response

Leader: Let us pray:

Side 1.

You have called us by our name, we belong to you

You have called us by our name, and we are yours

Side 2.

You have called us by our name, we belong to you.

You have called us by our name, and we are yours.

Side 1.

You will lead us by your light

You will walk with us in the darkness.

You walk with us through the night.

Side 2.



You are our companion on life's journey.  
 You keep the fire of hope enkindled.  
 You nourish us and offer us very gift we need.  
 And when we lose our way, you call out our name.

ALL:

You have called us by our name, we belong to you  
 You have called us by our name, and we are yours  
 You have called us by our name, we belong to you.  
 You have called us by our name, and we are yours.

**READING 2. Mary, First Witness of the Resurrection John  
 20:1-10**

A reading taken for the Gospel according to John

**20** Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. <sup>2</sup> So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

<sup>3</sup> So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. <sup>4</sup> Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup> He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. <sup>6</sup> Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, <sup>7</sup> as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. <sup>8</sup> Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. <sup>9</sup> (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) <sup>10</sup> Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

<sup>17</sup> Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" "

<sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

**Response:**

Song, *Preach for Me* by Marty Gleeson, OP; sung by Susan Olson, OP and Duane Brown OP

<http://37371.thankyou4caring.org/file/13-Preach-For-Me.wma>

**Preach For Me**

Mary, Oh Mary. Can't you see? Look at me.  
 Oh rabbouni, Oh rabbouni, is it you? Is that you?  
 Tell them. Mary, you must tell them Who you've seen, preach for me.  
 Jesus, oh my love Jesus, I will tell them that you live.

I know that what I've seen is true. Oh, Peter, believe me.  
 Oh, why can't it be? He appeared and spoke to me.  
 Oh, Peter, believe me.

Mary why won't they believe you? It is I, it is I.  
 Jesus, oh my love, Jesus, I know why. I know why.  
 Tell them, Mary. Don't stop telling them who you've seen, preach for me.  
 Oh, Jesus I will preach forever that you live, that you live

I will preach that you live.

**READING 3: John 20:11-18 Called by name.****A continuation of the reading taken from the Gospel according to John.**

<sup>11</sup> Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb <sup>12</sup> and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

<sup>13</sup> They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." <sup>14</sup> At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

<sup>15</sup> He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"



Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.”

<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, “Mary.”

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”).

<sup>17</sup> Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

<sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that he had said these things to her.

Pause

**Leader: Let us pray together**

ALL: You called Mary by her name and sent her  
to proclaim the word JESUS IS RISEN.  
You have called us by our name, and we are yours  
You have called us by name and sent us to witness to your  
Gospel

Leader: Choose one, depending on the size of the group

1. Invite someone from the group to offer a reflection on Mary Magdalene as Patron of the Order, Woman of Her Time, Woman of Our Time.
2. Reflection questions  
Just sit for a moment and consider –  
Why did they not believe Mary Magdalene?  
Do they believe us today when we proclaim the Good News?  
Share in small groups (optional).

Leader:

Mary Magdalene is the Patroness of the Dominican Order and for over 800 years Dominicans have been faithful in preaching the Good News – JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN.

**As each continent is named a candle will be lit.**

**CLOSING Song**

*Garden of Peace* by Teresa Tedder (200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary song)  
or a song of your own choosing.

*Garden of Peace* Lyrics sheet:

<https://usdomsisters200.oppeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Garden-of-Peace-Lyrics-Sheet.pdf>

*Garden of Peace* Song:

<https://usdomsisters200.oppeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/1-GARDEN-OF-PEACE-VOCALS.wav>



**Click here for more resources for the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:**

<https://usdomsisters200.oppeace.org/resources/>

