

# Easter Sunday

## I Have Seen the Lord

Pastor George Hinman

John 20:11-18

March 31, 2024

**Introduction:** The gospel writer John, the beloved disciple, begins his account of the good news by introducing Jesus as the Word who was with God, from God and is God. He goes on to say "In Him was life, and that light was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:4-5). So, when John describes the morning of the resurrection by saying "early in the morning on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb..." (John 20:1) we find ourselves along with Mary Magdalene bathed in the darkness that closes in without Jesus. Our text this week takes place a while later in chapter 20. Even though the sun (and the Son) is risen, Mary Magdalene is still in that darkness until Jesus calls her by name and the light of Easter dawns in her, never to be extinguished.

**Prayer:** Holy God, you came to earth to die for our sakes and you rose to make your love complete and send our sins down to defeat. Show us more about how we can have confidence in you. Amen.

**Review:** Pastor Aaron charged us to think about these questions: How is God calling you to change the way you think? How is God calling you to change the way you act? What is God calling you to do?

**Read:** John 20:11-18

### **Discussion:**

1. What is Mary Magdalene expecting to see at the tomb? See Mark 16:1-3. What does she see and not see?
2. Why is Mary crying? Why do you think this the first question that the angels and Jesus ask of her? Why shouldn't she be crying?
3. What makes Mary sure that Jesus is risen and is alive? How do others react to Mary's witness? See Luke 24:9-11
4. What evidence gives you confidence that Jesus is alive? Where do you get your evidence? Has God ever given you evidence that was personal to you?

**Application:** Ask Jesus to confirm your belief in Him. Look to see what clues you might have missed.

**Prayer:** Almighty God, please keep showing us yourself to us in ways we expect and in ways we don't expect. Amen