
LITANY TO SAINT MARY MAGDALA

LEADER: *(in these or similar words)*

In a few moments we will bless each other and together claim our full humanity. And so, we now call upon Mary of Magdala, asking her to be with us and to pray with us. **Our response is: Be with us!**

READER:

We know her as Mary Magdalene or Mary of Magdala. We associate this name with a town. But in Luke's Gospel, she is "Mary, called Magdalene." This title is similar to "Simon, called Peter." Just as *petra* means rock in Greek, *migdala* means fortress temple, watchtower, stronghold, and elevated pulpit in the in Aramaic and Hebrew.

And so we ask, Mary, Tower-Fortress-The Magdalene, R: Be with us!

The gospels name Mary of Magdala first and foremost as one of the women who funded Jesus, allowing the good-news movement to extend from Galilee all the way to Jerusalem.

And so we ask, Mary, Patron of the Movement, R: Be with us!

In the gospels, Mary and other women in the movement "ministered to [Jesus]." The Greek word *diakonos* means minister.

And so we ask, Mary, diakonos-minister, R: Be with us!

Mary of Magdala stood with many women until the bitter end, witnessing Jesus die on the cross even after all his male companions had scattered. She with other women went to the tomb with myrrh and entered into the rituals of mourning and burial.

And so we ask, Mary, pain-bearer, R: Be with us!

In the gospels, Mary - either alone or with other women - is the first to experience the Resurrected Jesus. And she is commissioned by Jesus to go and tell the others the good news of his Resurrection

And so we ask, Mary, bringer of the good news of Resurrection, R: Be with us!

The early Christian community knew Mary as an important leader and for her role as the first proclaimer of the Resurrection early Church fathers called her the "Apostle to the Apostles."

And so we ask, Mary, Apostle to the Apostles and evangelist, R: Be with us!

Adapted from "Thirteen Ways of Calling Out To Mary Magdalene" developed by The Women Who Stayed, the women's ministry at the Church of St. Francis Xavier, NYC.