

There are two recorded instances of someone embracing Christ in His adulthood. The first was Mary, sister of Lazarus, who tenderly washed the feet of Jesus with her tears and kissed them in the process of her heart-felt worship<sup>1</sup>. I believe that this was the greatest act of worship recorded before the cross. Jesus welcomed this contact, even when those around Him were judgmental<sup>2</sup>.

But when Mary Magdalene clung to Jesus after the resurrection, she was told to let go because He could not stay on earth<sup>3</sup>. One day, He would allow and welcome that embrace.

As we worship Christ in this communion, we are essentially embracing Him in a similar way, in a foretaste of what we will one day enjoy in heaven.

1. Luke 7:37-38 and John 12:3, with commentary in John 11:2
2. Luke 7:39-50
3. John 20:11-18