

Easter SUNDAY

APRIL 4, 2021



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Do not be amazed!
You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified.
He has been raised; he is not here.

Mark 16:6

Feast of Faith

The Eucharist: Food for Resurrection

How do we celebrate Easter, the greatest of our Christian feasts? By doing what we do every Sunday and every day: celebrating the Mass. On the first Easter, as the heartbroken disciples walked the road to Emmaus, the Lord was with them but they did not realize it. They only recognized him “in the breaking of the bread” (Luke 22:35).

It is the same for us. In the Mass—the breaking of the bread—we meet the risen Lord together. We meet him in each other—for by our baptism into his death and resurrection, we have become members of one body, the Body of Christ. We meet him in his word—in the liturgy the scriptures are proclaimed to us, that they might take root and grow in us. And we meet him in a special way in the Eucharist, the sacrament of his Body and Blood, which is food for resurrection: “whoever eats this bread will live forever” (John 6:51). The Lord is risen indeed, and it is the Risen One who truly presides at this and every Eucharist.

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Rejoice And Be Glad

During the first three or four centuries of Christianity, if you asked a Christian to name the feast days of the church, your answer would have been a puzzled stare, for there was only one feast: the Resurrection of the Lord. Every Sunday was a feast celebrating the one great feast. Even though our calendar now has many beautiful and holy feasts, we must continually be called back to the fact that all these other feasts exist because of the feast of Christ’s passover from death to life. The psalm today proclaims this message well: “This is the day.” It is not one of many days, but it is the day of all days, the one that gives all the others their origin, purpose, meaning, and destiny. Listen carefully to Peter’s speech in Acts with its recollection of the Passion, to the words of the apostle Paul, and to the account of Mary Magdalene, John, and Peter finding the empty tomb, and you will hear the many wonderful works that God has done for us through Christ. Rejoice and be glad!

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Readings for the Week

Monday:	Acts 2:14, 22-33; Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11; Mt 28:8-15
Tuesday:	Acts 2:36-41; Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22; Jn 20:11-18
Wednesday:	Acts 3:1-10; Ps 105:1-4, 6-9; Lk 24:13-35
Thursday:	Acts 3:11-26; Ps 8:2ab, 5-9; Lk 24:35-48
Friday:	Acts 4:1-12; Ps 118:1-2, 4, 22-27a; Jn 21:1-14
Saturday:	Acts 4:13-21; Ps 118:1, 14-15ab, 16-21; Mk 16:9-15
Sunday:	Acts 4:32-35; Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24; 1 Jn 5:1-6; Jn 20:19-31

Saints and Special Observances

Sunday:	Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord; Julian Calendar Palm Sunday
Monday:	Monday within the Octave of Easter
Tuesday:	Tuesday within the Octave of Easter
Wednesday:	Wednesday within the Octave of Easter Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day)
Thursday:	Thursday within the Octave of Easter
Friday:	Friday in the Octave of Easter; Julian Calendar Good Friday
Saturday:	Saturday within the Octave of Easter

Easter People

We are Easter people and Alleluia is our song!

St. Augustine

Today's Readings

First Reading — Peter is an eyewitness: The Lord is risen (Acts 10:34a, 37-43).

Psalm — This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad (Psalm 118).

(1) Second Reading — All who are baptized, set your hearts in heaven (Colossians 3:1-4) or

(2) Second Reading — Christ our Passover is sacrificed; therefore let us celebrate (1 Corinthians 5:6b-8).

Gospel — Three witnesses, Mary, Peter, and John; each responds to the empty tomb (John 20:1-9) or Mark 16:1-7 (or, at an afternoon or evening Mass, Luke 24:13-35).

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**Easter Sunday
April 4, 2021**

**I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the Lord.
—Psalm 118:17**

Treasures From Our Tradition

It has been said that the most convincing sign of the Risen Christ is the Risen Christian. Today, in parishes around the world, new life is drawn from the waters of baptism, and new Christians are thrilled to see the crowds pour in to join in the feast. On Easter, we do not say the Creed, but rather renew our baptismal promises with hearty responses. We are taking the first joyful steps on a fifty-day-long celebration. In the southern hemisphere, the world is slipping into winter, but for us in North America, the earth itself seems to sing hymns to Christ's victory. Look this morning for the fresh paschal candle standing near the baptismal waters. It was consecrated in the hours of the night, will burn brightly for fifty days whenever we gather for prayer, and will glow again at every baptism and every funeral in the year ahead. Even though we may be gathered around the candle someday in sadness, today's joy at Christ's victory over death will shine through.

—James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

A Good Day to Die

Do you remember your own baptism? I wish I could; I was baptized as an infant, just a few days old. I envy the adults I have seen baptized at the Easter Vigil. Hopefully, they experience what St. Paul says in the epistle we hear at the Vigil. For Paul, Baptism is a sign of dying and rising to new life. Sounds like Easter to me. So when Jesus died, he rose from the dead. Is Paul telling us that we will rise from the dead, too?

Yes, but that is not his main point. If all we think about is our physical death, and hope we go to heaven afterwards, we're missing the point. The new life starts with our baptism, not just our physical death. That's why Paul says things like, "our old self was crucified" or "sinful body done away with. . ." (Rom 6:6) Baptism gives us a new life NOW. The water is both cleansing and a sign of dying (symbolic drowning) that help us see we are free from sin. We are dead to sin when we begin to live in Christ. The fictional Klingons have a saying "today is a good day to die" to express courage in battle. But real Christians might say that Easter is a good day to die: we have died to sin and begun a new life in Christ.

How do we experience this dying to sin? First, we identify the sinful areas of our life. Do I watch movies, video games, or TV shows that encourage promiscuity, lying, revenge, hatred or selfishness? What sins do I confess repeatedly and what can I do to avoid them?

Next we look for ways to act differently: Can I spend more time with friends/relatives who are examples of love? Can I spend less time entertaining myself and more time in prayer? Instead of complaining about what is wrong with the world, can I find ways to make it better? (If not the world, then my community or family.) These are a few of the ways we begin our new life in Christ.

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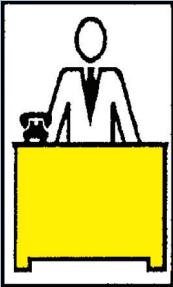


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