

# 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.

—Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



## 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

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

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

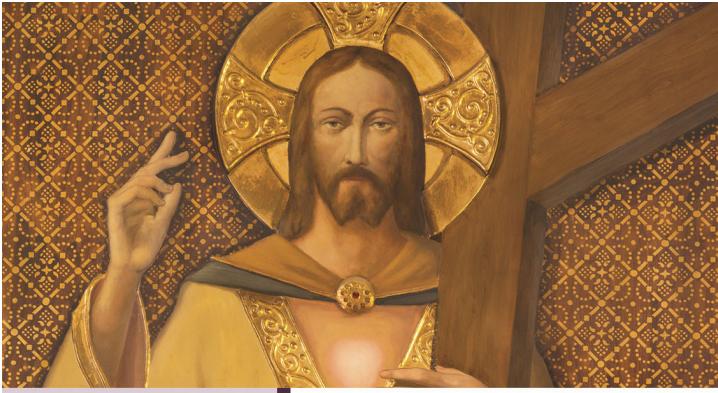
Do you remember your own baptism? I wish I could; I was baptized as an infant, just a few days old. I envy the adults I have seen baptized at the Easter Vigil. Hopefully, they experience what St. Paul says in the epistle we hear at the Vigil. For Paul, Baptism is a sign of dying and rising to new life. 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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He has been raised; he is not here.

Mark 16:6

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## TRANSFORMED BY THE RESURRECTION

Alleluia! Christ is risen! Imagine the flood of emotions that Mary of Magdala must have experienced on that first Easter morning. Grieving and yet determined to visit the place where Jesus' body had been laid, Mary would have been stunned to find the tomb empty. Imagine Simon Peter and the other disciple who, upon hearing Mary's announcement, ran to see for themselves. On Easter, we hear the story of Jesus' resurrection as though for the first time, through the account of Mary's discovery and the testimony of Peter who powerfully shared Christ's Paschal Mystery. We, too, have come to believe through their faithful witness. We are called to seek what is above, turn away from sin, and live as people who are forever transformed by the Good News of Jesus' resurrection.

## STEP OUT IN FAITH

Mary ran to tell Simon Peter and the other disciple that the tomb was empty. No doubt confused and concerned, Peter and the other disciple set aside whatever fear might have occurred to them and ran to see the tomb for themselves. We do not always understand God's ways. We too are confused at times; our lives are marked by moments of uncertainty, and at times we are afraid. We can learn from Mary, Simon Peter, and the other disciple and step out in faith, trusting that we will find the Lord in the midst of the circumstances of our lives. When life gets complicated, as it often does, the best thing to do is step out, perhaps even run to the Lord!

## BEAR WITNESS

We may not have opportunities to address crowds of people and share the gospel with them. Still, we are called to bear witness to our faith in the ways that we are able, in word and in deed. We cannot share what we have not fully embraced ourselves, however. The Easter season is the perfect time to reflect on Christ's Paschal Mystery, the unfathomable love of Jesus who shows and shares God's love perfectly. Our Lord gave his life so that we might have life, and have it to the full. Christ's victory over sin and death is our victory, our promise of eternal life with God in the fullness of time. See in Christ's life, passion, death, and resurrection the sign of God's mercy. Let this Easter day be a moment in which you allow yourself to be touched by Christ's incredible, undying love. Then, renewed in faith, look for ways to bear witness to the mercy, forgiveness, compassion, and love of the Lord with others.

## TODAY'S READINGS

Acts 10:34a, 37–43  
Psalm 118:1–2, 16–17, 22–23  
Colossians 3:1–4 or  
1 Corinthians 5:6b–8  
John 20:1–9

# Prayer of the Faithful

**This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and  
pray for the needs of all.**

**For the whole Church, raised with Christ Jesus our Lord,  
as we seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
let us pray to the Lord.**

**For the people of every nation of the world, may they know  
the right hand of the Lord that has struck with power, and be  
freed from malice, wickedness, and oppression,  
let us pray to the Lord.**

**For all those afflicted by illness or pain or distress; may  
they know the healing power of the risen Lord in their lives,  
let us pray to the Lord.**

**For all the newly baptized throughout the world, and  
especially those here in our own community; may  
they walk always with Christ in newness of life,  
let us pray to the Lord.**

**For all of our worshiping community today as we  
share in the mission first given to the apostles to testify  
to the Good News of our risen Lord,  
let us pray to the Lord.**

**For all those who are sick, for all who suffer from  
COVID-19, and for all who have died,  
especially N., N., and N.,  
let us pray to the Lord.**

**For all the prayers that we hold in the silence  
of our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken,  
let us pray to the Lord.**

**Almighty God,  
we rejoice in the great work you have accomplished  
through your Son Jesus Christ.**

**Fill us with zeal to proclaim this good news  
and graciously hear all these our prayers  
through the same Christ our risen Lord.**

# God's Word for Children

Jesus died on the cross to save us.  
Later, when others went to his tomb they found he was gone!  
That's because God had raised Jesus to life again!  
Finish writing the word **gone** inside each tomb.  
Finish writing the word **alive** below the picture of Jesus.

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**Easter  
Jesus is risen!**

The Resurrection means many things for us.  
Follow the instructions to make a newspaper that explains some of what this holy day is all about.

Rearrange these words to make a great title!

Draw a picture of Jesus!

Cross out all the capital letters.

Circle the correct answer.

**The Little Ones** Jim Burrows

**THE TOMB IS EMPTY,  
CHRIST IS RISEN!  
... AND COFFEE'S READY.**

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So the other disciple who had first come to the tomb then also entered, and he saw and believed.  
For as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise again from the dead. Jn 20:8-9



## PRAISE WITH TAMBOURINES

On this great feast of Easter the psalm we sing is filled with joy!

*This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice . . . and be glad.  
(Psalm 118:24)*

The people of Israel not only prayed and sang the psalms as we do at Mass, they often played instruments and joyfully danced their prayer to the Lord. Two of the psalms written by King David mention tambourines.

*Give praise with tambourines and dance (Psalm 150:4).*

*Make music with tambourine and lyre (Psalm 149:3).*

Today is a great day to sing and dance and make music to the Lord! Jesus is risen and promises that we too will rise with him on the last day. Follow these instructions to make a tambourine to play as you sing.

You will need two paper plates; markers or crayons; a stapler; raw rice, dried peas or corn, or dry cereal; ribbons; crepe paper or yarn; or other craft items you'd like to use to decorate your tambourine.

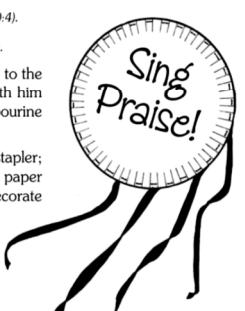
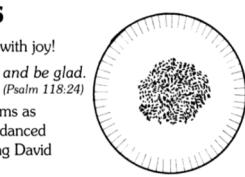
First, decorate the bottom sides of both plates with colorful words and images—  
“Alleluia!” “Rejoice!” “Easter,”  
flowers, colored eggs, a sun, etc.

Second, lay one plate colored side down and fill it with the dry pieces, then place the second plate on top, colored side up. Staple around the edges. Be sure the staples are close together so the pieces inside the plates don't fall out.

Third, staple pieces of ribbon, crepe paper, or yarn around the edges. When you strike the tambourine, these streamers will wave in the breeze.

Finally, think of the melody of the psalm and sing it while making music with your tambourine. Sing “Alleluia” before you begin your meal prayer for Easter dinner.

*If you sing the psalm at Mass today, listen very carefully to the melody of the response.  
Try to remember it and sing it during the week.*



# Easter Sunday

## April 4, 2021

I shall not die, but live,  
and declare the works of the LORD.

— Psalm 118:17



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