

**Easter Day 2020**  
**Homily-Saint Joseph Parish**  
**Father Craig Looney**

**1 COR. 5. 7 ST. JOHN 20.1-9**

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*"Christ our Passover is Sacrificed for us...therefore let us keep the Feast."*

Easter is the "Queen of Feasts"... because it is the joyous celebration of the event at the very heart of our faith...the Resurrection of Jesus.

Saint Paul writes...

*... "Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive".*

Our parish Holy Week and Easter celebrations are very different this year. We're not able to gather at the church...we're staying at home. A parishioner quipped we're in a sort of "house arrest" (for our own safety and that of others)...giving us a sense of what Saint Paul might have experienced for different reasons.

It is Easter Day and the Easter Canticle (hymn) *Christ our Passover* (Book of Common Prayer, Pages 162-163) sets the stage for our celebration of the Resurrection. The Canticle is said at Morning Prayer on Easter Day and throughout the Octave in place of the *Venite*...it would be appropriate to say it throughout the Easter Season.

Saint Paul talks about Jesus being the "first fruits" of those who have died and been raised from death. "First fruits" means there are "more fruits" to follow. We are the "more fruits".

In the Gospel reading, Mary Magdalene is the first to discover Jesus' empty grave. When she tells Peter and John, they run to the grave. They went to their own homes not understanding the truth about the Resurrection. It would become clear to them later.

As we read today's lessons and those throughout the Easter season let us think about what Easter means for us...

...Jesus really rose from the dead. We know this to be true because he appeared to his disciples and many others over the forty days between his Resurrection and the Ascension.

...Jesus' Resurrection makes possible our own resurrections to newness of life.

...Because Jesus the "first fruits" rose from the dead in his own body, we who are the "more fruits" will rise from the dead in our own perfected bodies on the Last Day.

Today we celebrate with thanksgiving Jesus' victory over death...and wait with joyful expectation for the day when we will see Jesus face to face.

Our Easter celebration may be different this year from what we expected...but it is still Easter. And so we say to ourselves and to others (by e-mail or by phone if we have to)...

...Alleluia. The Lord is Risen! He is Risen indeed. Alleluia.

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