

## Easter – Easter Day 2026

**Acts 10:34. 37-43; Ps 117; Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-9**

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When the Hebrew people are preparing their Passover meal prior to their escape, or Exodus, from Egypt they are told to prepare a lamb for a meal. The lamb serves not only as a sacrifice and of food, but also provides the blood-mark on the doorposts so that the angel of death passes over, the angle that will strike down the first born of Egypt and finally force Pharaoh to let the Hebrews slaves go. Christ will take up the image of a sacrificed lamb to refer to himself, and for what he will do for all peoples salvation: becoming sacrifice and safety from eternal death.

The escaping Hebrews are also told make their bread without any leaven. The reason for making bread without leaven is so that they have to do not wait around in Egypt, the place of their oppression, for the leaven to do its work and for the bread to rise. They can respond to the Lord's command to leave immediately. Leaven therefore represents a lack of urgency, and also sin which makes you unresponsive to God's commands: leaven holds you back.

This is the meaning of the image of leaven and the lamb that St Paul uses in his letter to the Colossians, when he writes:

*“Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump! Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.”<sup>1</sup>*

This day I meet Jesus Christ afresh, in a small, round, white disk of bread without leaven. But now I clearly understand who it is who comes to me in this way, and what it is he has done for me. These past 40 Lenten Days have made me hungry, tired and raw. It is not easy to keep oneself company in the desert. But if you have really allowed yourself to be carried into the desert and strained to hear a voice in the silence, felt discomfort and spent time with your fear and doubts (in the desert there have been few places to run to) then you know what a relief it is to be found there by Christ. And then the, heart-ache, sore knees, long prayers and weariness, only intensify the joy of the moment when you recognise that He was always with you, waiting. Hidden sometimes, yes, but there, always waiting to reveal himself at the perfect time and in the perfect way.

Today, Lord, you come to us no longer hidden. You come to us in the unleavened bread of the Host, my Jesus. From the altar, within our hands, you speak to us of Abraham, and Isaac and Joseph. Whispering the name of Moses, humble as the Virgin Mother of God, speaking tidings of peace and soothing the war in our hearts. Becoming the Passover Meal, the cloud by day and fire by night, carrying us through the Red Sea to Baptise us again in the waters of the Jordan... all this in a small disk of pure ground wheat which has become our living hope. The Sacred Host is The Infant Christ, the teaching Christ, the healing Christ, the crucified Christ now Resurrected and Glorified. God's perfect prayer for us made flesh. And now, my Jesus, you reach out to us that we may hold you: gentle, full of mercy and compassion so that

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<sup>1</sup> Cor 5: 6-8

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we might live! Heaven on earth so that the earthly might become heavenly.

And us? We are something new. Today we are this new bread that St Paul speaks of, with the holiness borne of taking God upon our tongues and His turning our lives into living praise, and turning in haste from sin. This is what we have received this Easter day, when sin is conquered and death thrown down. *This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me* was spoken just a few days ago by your lips, and now, -after the cross - we understand. Come our Lord and Saviour, that we might consume you and become like you! Wash our feet and let us surrender to your promise. Let us be like the other disciple who early in the morning raced to find the empty tomb, who saw and believed. Today is that day.