



St. Joseph Catholic Church
Harlowton, Montana
Missions:
Blessed Sacrament, Shawmut
Immaculate Conception, Judith Gap

Father Cody Williams, Pastor

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Easter Sunday
April 5, 2026

Jesus is risen! As Pope Francis said, "This message resounds in the Church the world over, along with the singing of the Alleluia. He remained two days in the tomb; but his death contained God's love in all its power, released and made manifest on the third day, the day we celebrate today: the Easter of Christ the Lord. The words heard by the women at the tomb are also addressed to us: Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Death, solitude, and fear are not the last word. There is a word that transcends them, a word that only God can speak: it is the word of the Resurrection." Christ has made good on all he promised. He is truly risen.

We ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

First Reading: Acts 10:34, 37-43 ³⁴And Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I perceive that God shows no partiality, ³⁷the word which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹And we are witnesses to all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and made him manifest; ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²And he commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that he is the one ordained by God to be judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³To him all the prophets bear witness that every one who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Psalms 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 **R/ This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.**

¹O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures for ever! ²Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures for ever." ¹⁶the right hand of the LORD is exalted, the right hand of the LORD does valiantly!" ¹⁷I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the LORD. ²²The stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner. ²³This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

Seek what is above, where Christ is.

Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-4 ¹If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³For you have died, and your life is hid with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Clear out the old yeast, so that you may become a fresh batch of dough.

1 Corinthians 5:6-8 Brothers and sisters: Do you not know that a little yeast leavens all the dough? Clear out the old yeast, so that you may become a fresh batch of dough, inasmuch as you are unleavened. For our paschal lamb, Christ, has been sacrificed. Therefore, let us celebrate the feast, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Alleluia, alleluia. Christ, our paschal lamb, has been sacrificed; let us then feast with joy in the Lord. **Alleluia, alleluia.**
He had to rise from the dead.

Gospel: John 20:1-9 ¹Now on the first day of the week Mary Mag'dalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. ²So she ran, and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." ³Peter then came out with the other disciple, and they went toward the tomb. ⁴They both ran, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first; ⁵and stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; he saw the linen cloths lying, ⁷and the napkin, which had been on his head, not lying with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹for as yet they did not know the scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

12:00 noon Sunday Mass at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Harlowton, MT.

Daily Mass on Thursdays at noon at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Harlowton, MT.

*****Confessions before Sunday Mass beginning at 11:30 am or by appointment. Please join us to pray the rosary for our nation and community 1/2 hour before Sunday Mass.**

Sunday Mass at 9 am at St. Bartholomew, White Sulphur Springs & 4:30pm at Holy Cross, Townsend.

*****Eucharistic Adoration on Thursdays – join us anytime between 12:30–3:30 pm.**

Youth Group meets each Thursday from 7 to 8:30 pm.

Please join us for our monthly parish potlucks on the 4th Sunday after Mass - 4/26/26; 5/24/26; 6/28/26

Mark Your Calendars:

The next Chosen Movie night is scheduled for Thursday, April 9th at 7 pm at the Harlowton Theater. All are welcome to attend!

Our Parish Easter Potluck is scheduled for April 26th after Mass. Please join us for some great food & fellowship.

The Church Fathers series and youth group resumes on Thursday, April 16th.

Please pray for our seminarians:

Riley Helgoe

Bret Rotz

Carter Anderson

James Semling

Ryan Frampton

Jake Smith

Anthony Olmes

Shae Bills

Carson Gorton

Mason Yochum

Dcn. Kaleb Mitchell

Jamie Severson

Matt Keck

Liam Aippersbach,

Congratulations to Fr. Dillon Armstrong on his ordination to the priesthood! Please keep him in your prayers.

Seeing and Believing: Scott Hahn Reflects on Easter Sunday

Listen Here: [Seeing and Believing: Scott Hahn Reflects on Easter Sunday - St. Paul Center](#)

Readings: Acts 10:34, 37–43; Psalm 118:1–2, 16–17, 22–23; Colossians 3:1–4; John 20:1–9:

Jesus is nowhere visible. Yet today's Gospel tells us that Peter and John "saw and believed."

What did they see? Burial shrouds lying on the floor of an empty tomb. Maybe that convinced them that He hadn't been carted off by grave robbers, who usually stole the expensive burial linens and left the corpses behind.

But notice the repetition of the word "tomb"—seven times in nine verses. They saw the empty tomb and they believed what He had promised: that God would raise Him on the third day.

Chosen to be His "witnesses," today's First Reading tells us, the Apostles were "commissioned . . . to preach . . . and testify" to all that they had seen—from His anointing with the Holy Spirit at the Jordan to the empty tomb. More than their own experience, they were instructed in the mysteries of the divine economy, God's saving plan—to know how "all the prophets bear witness" to Him (see Luke 24:27, 44).

Now they could "understand the Scripture," could teach us what He had told them—that He was "the Stone which the builders rejected," that today's Psalm prophesies His Resurrection and exaltation (see Luke 20:17; Matthew 21:42; Acts 4:11).

We are the children of the apostolic witnesses. That is why we still gather early in the morning on the first day of every week to celebrate this feast of the empty tomb, give thanks for "Christ our life," as today's Epistle calls Him.

Baptized into His death and Resurrection, we live the heavenly life of the risen Christ, our lives "hidden with Christ in God." We are now His witnesses, too. But we testify to things we cannot see but only believe; we seek in earthly things what is above.

We live in memory of the Apostles' witness, like them eating and drinking with the risen Lord at the altar. And we wait in hope for what the Apostles told us would come—the day when we too "will appear with Him in glory." ~ Dr. Scott Hahn

Suggested Prayer of the Faithful page 258 Holy Week 2026 Magnificat

(Each local community should compose its own Universal Prayer but may find inspiration in the texts proposed here.)

Enlivened by the joy of our Easter Alleluia, we turn to our heavenly Father:

That the Church may manifest in tangible ways the truth of Christ's triumph over death.

That oppression, hatred, and injustice of every sort may be put to death through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

That Christ, risen from the dead, will bless our country, our parish, and our families.

That the newly baptized and confirmed will find in the Church the joy and happiness for which their hearts long.

For the grace to be faithful in living our Catholic faith, especially through fidelity to Sunday Mass and the sacraments.

That the truth of Christ's Resurrection will deeply change our lives, renewing our families and blessing us with the new beginning we need.

Christ is risen! He is truly risen! Bless us, Father, with the assurance of your Son's presence in our lives, for Jesus is our Lord, now and forever. Amen

Intercessions page 261 Holy Week 2026 Magnificat

Let us acclaim Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, that we might rise with him:

R/ Glory to you, O Christ our life!

O Christ, radiant light shining in our darkness,

– you have sanctified forever our mortal condition: R/

Lord, who walked the road to Calvary,

– you call us to follow you through death to resurrection: R/

Son of the Father, our brother and our master,

– you bring us into God's own household: R/

King of glory, we await the glorious day of your appearing,

– when we will see you as you are and be made like you: R/

Personal intentions **Our Father....**

O God, you were pleased to give joy to the world through the Resurrection of your Son. Grant, we beseech you, that through the mediation of the Virgin Mary, his Mother, we may obtain the joys of life everlasting. Amen.

MEDITATION OF THE DAY **Life is Triumphant** pages 268-269 Holy Week 2026 Magnificat

We celebrate the triumph of our blessed Lord over death. Man has and shall vanquish and conquer many enemies; the only enemy he can never conquer is death. Yet even death, through the triumph of our blessed Lord, is to be finally conquered, not only his death, but ours. He is a conqueror of death because he can make each of us, if we will, also conquerors. It is thus that he has taken the horror out of death. He has made it something no longer to scare people, but to encourage them. It is no longer a ruin but a sacrifice that every soul can make. Each man dying is a priest, and can offer a sacrifice like his Master. Each, like his Master, is victim and priest beside. He can offer himself in memory of that offering Christ made; offer it undefeated even by death.

Again, for us death is not the end of the roadway. It is only a turn in the road. We hold it not as though it were the journey's end. The journey ends not in death, but in life. Indeed the journey has no ending....

Thus did Christ our Lord vanquish death. He taught us how to vanquish it by not being afraid to die. And death being vanquished, what other evil can we ever really fear? Death, the long undefeated foe of man, God made Man has conquered for himself and all the world. It is because of that...because death has been met and answered, that every Christian soul should know that there is nothing that cannot be firmly and properly dealt with. No problem can utterly be insoluble. There is a remedy for all things. To all things there is an end.

Men talk, and rightly, I suppose, of the problems of our time, and wonder how they are to be solved and dealt with. In consequence, people looking out into the future are a little afraid. How is this problem to be solved, they ask? What is to be the end of that? Now it is part of the spirit of the followers of Christ never to be afraid of the future, or of whatever the future may bring. There are dark clouds and difficulties beyond us always. Yet there must always be victory for good, for the good is God. God is triumphant. Life is triumphant. Every lesser thing shall fail.

~ Father Bede Jarrett, o.p. Father Jarrett († 1934) was a Dominican friar from England widely esteemed for his preaching, his lectures, and his many books on theology and spirituality.

Intercessions pages 271-272 Holy Week 2026 Magnificat

To Christ our victor, let us pray with joy:

R/ You are our light and our life, O Lord!

You rose from slavery to freedom:

– bring us out of the slavery of sin into the freedom of your eternal Kingdom.

R/ You rose from darkness to light:

– bring us out of the darkness of death into your glorious light. R/

You rose from death to life:

– raise us and all our beloved dead into eternal joy. R/

Personal intentions **Our Father....**

May God bless us on this solemn feast of Easter, and may he protect us from all sins. Amen.

Marian Antiphon:

Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia.

The Son whom you merited to bear, alleluia, has risen as he said, alleluia.

Pray for us to God, alleluia.

V/ Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia!

R/ For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia!