



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

A SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION

SATURDAY, April 8, 2023



HE IS RISEN

“DO NOT BE ALARMED.
YOU SEEK JESUS OF NAZARETH,
WHO WAS CRUCIFIED.
HE IS RISEN!
HE IS NOT HERE.”
MARK 16:6



HAPPY EASTER



What is the 'good news'?

(MetroCreative Connection)

The term "good news" is often used by Christians in reference to their faith. Good news is at the heart of Christianity, and it has both symbolic and literal meaning in reference to the New Testament.

According to the online biblical reference Bible Odyssey, "good news" is the literal translation of the Greek word "euangelion." It also can be interchanged with gospel, which is "good spiel" or "godspel," which means good news. New Testament authors offer that the good news means the salvation and liberation from sin and estrangement from God.

The Apostle Paul summarized the gospel, and in turn

the good news, in this way:

"Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was bur-

ied, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve."

Christians believe Christ's death symbolizes the ultimate sacrifice and paved the way for Jesus' resurrection. The death and resurrection — proving that there would be life after death for the faithful — became the core tenet of the Christian faith. Everyone who accepts the gospel and has faith in God will receive salvation in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Easter celebrations are important to Christians because this holiday is the most meaningful on the liturgical calendar. Easter highlights the good news in



COURTESY OF METROCREATIVE CONNECTION

Easter Sunday is an especially significant date on the Christian calendar.

Why is Easter Sunday such an important Christian holiday?

(MetroCreative Connection)

Christians around the world fill church pews on Easter Sunday to participate in one of the most holy and important celebrations of the liturgical year. Although every Sunday presents opportunities to share in the word of God, Easter Sunday is an especially significant date on the Christian calendar.

Each Easter, Christians celebrate the miracle of Christ's defeat over death through his resurrection and ascension to his father's side in heaven.

However awe-inspiring, Easter is much more than this event and its retelling. Easter actually is the core of the Christian religion as it has come to be known, including inspiring the rituals and teachings that have been shared for nearly 2,000 years. Without the events that unfolded during Holy Week, the Christian faith would not exist as it was prophesied. Christ's selfless sacrifice on the cross for others' sins, as well as his miraculous resurrection, are the anchors upon which all of

Christianity has been built.

In 1 Corinthians 15:17, St. Paul wrote, "And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins." Pope Benedict XVI similarly summarized St. Paul's words, indicating that if the resurrection were taken away, it may be possible to piece together ideas about God and men, but the Christian faith would be "dead." In his book, Jesus of Nazareth, Pope Benedict further wrote, "Jesus would be a failed religious leader... he would then remain purely

human, and his authority would extend only so far as his message is of interest to us."

According to Christianity.com, Easter is part of the redemptive plan of mankind. It is worthy of celebration because it proved to people that Jesus is the Son of God. This gives Christians confidence that there is life after

death, and they will have the same power working in them that raised Jesus from the dead.

Out of Holy Week and Easter also came the start of Christian masses. On Holy Thursday, Jesus introduced his disciples to the bread that they ate at the Last Supper as "his body" and the wine as "his blood." This

would serve as the basis for the Christian celebration of Holy Communion, which remains a vital component of the faith and religious services.

Easter is a significant date on the Christian calendar that inspires Christians across the globe to celebrate their faith.

"And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power."
1 Corinthians 6:14

Easter Sunday

April 9, 2023

Sunday School 9:30 A.M.
Worship 10:45 A.M.

912 E. Main St.

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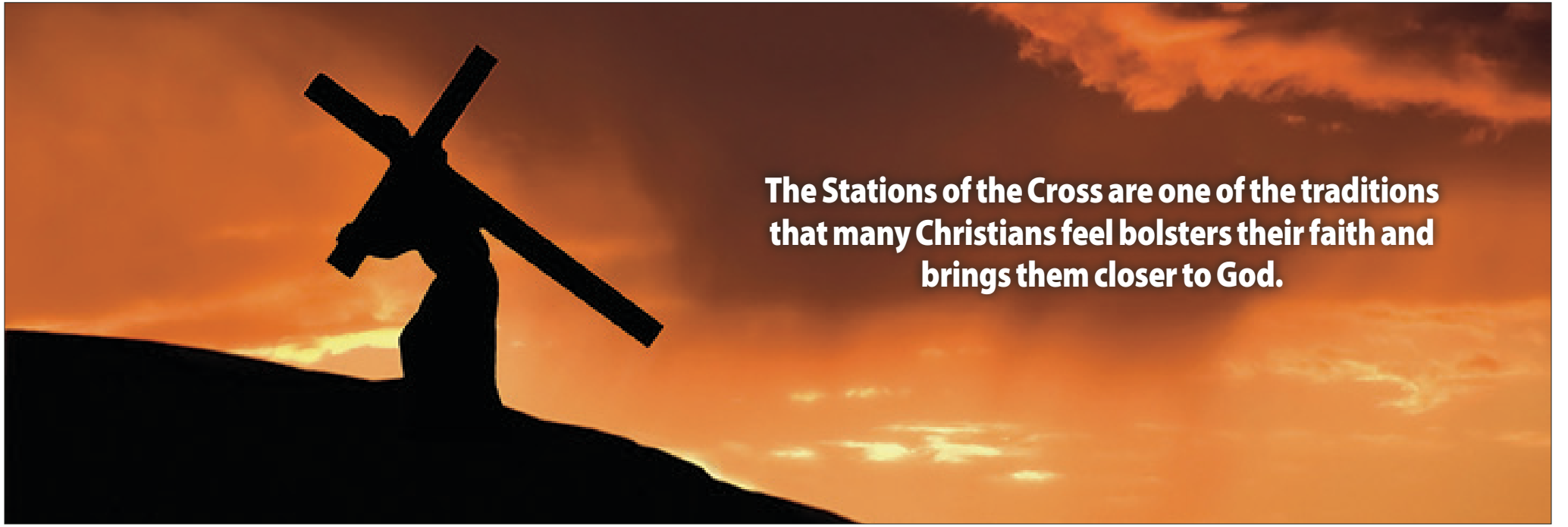
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The Stations of the Cross are one of the traditions that many Christians feel bolsters their faith and brings them closer to God.

COURTESY OF METROCREATIVE CONNECTION

Explaining the Stations of the Cross

(MetroCreative Connection)

Tradition is prominent in Holy Week celebrations. The week leading up to Easter Sunday, Holy Week, is a sacred time for faithful Christians. The Stations of the Cross are one of the traditions that many Christians feel bolsters their faith and brings them closer to God.

What are the Stations of the Cross?

According to Catholic Online, the Stations of the Cross are a 14-step devotion that commemorates Jesus Christ's last day on Earth as a man. Each of the 14 stations focus on a specific

event of Jesus's last day as a man.

Where can the Stations of the Cross be found?

Stations of the Cross are typically found in churches. Many times the Stations adorn the interior wall of a church, and Catholic Online

notes they're often depicted using small icons or images. Some churches with sizable exterior grounds may arrange larger Stations along footpaths in yards or gardens on the premises.

When do people most commonly pray the Stations of

the Cross?

Lent is the most common time to pray the Stations of the Cross, and some churches hold weekly prayer sessions on Wednesdays and Fridays during this time of year.

WHAT ARE THE 14 STATIONS?

Catholic Online notes the 14 Stations of the Cross are:

1. Jesus is condemned to death
2. Jesus carries the cross
3. Jesus falls for the first time
4. Jesus meets with His Mother

5. Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry the cross
6. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus
7. Jesus falls a second time
8. Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem
9. Jesus falls a third time
10. Jesus's clothes are taken away
11. Jesus is nailed to the cross
12. Jesus dies on the cross

13. The body of Jesus is taken down from the cross
14. Jesus is laid in the tomb

The Stations of the Cross are an important Easter tradition that shed light on Jesus's resurrection. Individuals interested in praying the Stations of the Cross are urged to contact a local church so they can engage in this moving Christian tradition.

Stories of the Resurrection as told in the Gospels

(MetroCreative Connection)

Easter is a holy day on the Christian calendar that commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The resurrection of Jesus is described in the Gospels of the New Testament, which millions of Christians read every year, especially during the Lenten season, which is a 40-day period that directly precedes Easter Sunday.

The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John comprise the canonical Gospels. Each book can help Christians understand and connect with the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The following are passages from each of the canonical Gospels that help to tell the story of the resurrection of Jesus.

MATTHEW 28: 1-10

Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen

from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you." So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

MARK 16: 2-7

And very early in the morning, the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun. And they said among themselves, "Who shall roll us away the stone from the

door of the sepulchre?" And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great. And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted. And he saith unto them, "Be not affrighted: ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him. But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you."

LUKE 24: 1-12

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the

spices they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise." And they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.

JOHN 20: 1-10

Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. So 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." So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples went back to their homes.



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- 8:00 am Fellowship Breakfast
- 10:00 am Bible Study
- 11:00 am Resurrection Celebration
- No evening service

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HE IS † RISEN

CELEBRATE THE RESURRECTION



Your guide to the Easter liturgical celebration

(MetroCreative Connection)

Easter is the holiest day of the year for Christians. According to biblical scripture, Jesus Christ is the promised Messiah and Savior to the World. Easter Sunday marks His resurrection from death on the cross, upon which He paid the full penalty for humanity's sins by offering a spotless sacrifice in Himself, established the Christian religion and belief in everlasting life after death.

THE ROAD TO EASTER

In the weeks leading up to Easter, the faithful participate in a 40-day period of fasting, repentance and spiritual discipline known as Lent. In western Christianity, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. Easter is preceded by Holy Week, which starts with Palm Sunday, the celebration of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, and encompasses Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday.

Services during Lent and Holy Week are spe-

cial and differ from others in the liturgical year. On Palm Sunday, for example, Roman Catholics and other Christians will take part in the reading of the Passion, which details Judas' betrayal of Jesus Christ, and His crucifixion.

EASTER VIGIL

The Easter Vigil is an ancient liturgy celebrated on the night before Easter Sunday. It began as an all-night vigil, but has since been shortened. The Vigil

begins with the church shrouded in darkness before a candle is lit from a fire outside the church. The candle represents Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Eventually all the candles in the sanctuary are lit from the Easter candle. Readings focus on God's marvelous plan and span from Genesis to the New Testament.

THE MASS OF EASTER (The Resurrection of the Lord)

Easter Sunday Mass is a celebratory time for Christians. Most attend services in their formal clothing and give thanks to Jesus and to bask in the light of His eternal life.

According to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Easter Sunday features key readings and responses. The First Reading is from Acts 10:34a, 37-43, and speaks of Jesus of Nazareth be-

ing anointed with the Holy Spirit. The Second Reading is from Colossians 3:1-4 or Corinthians 5:6B-8, which details following Christ and turning away from sin and into His Glory. The Gospel that will be read can be one of these four: John 20:1-9, Matthew 28:1-10, Luke 24:13-35, or Mark 16:1-7. These readings each speak to the discovery of Jesus' empty burial tomb and reassure disciples they should not be afraid because He has been raised from the dead in glory.

Depending on the parish, refreshments may follow the Easter mass and there is a fellowship of the community joined together on this holy day. Families then go home to their individual Easter celebrations, often sharing a lamb or ham dinner with family and friends.

Easter Sunday Mass is the penultimate Holy Week celebration in the Christian Church. It is a time of great joy and tradition.



COURTESY OF METROCREATIVE CONNECTION

The Eucharist is a central component of the Christian faith.

Holy week celebrates the origins of the Eucharist

(MetroCreative Connection)

The Eucharist is a central component of the Christian faith. During the Eucharistic celebration, the sharing of bread and wine, which many Christians believe symbolizes the actual body and blood of Christ after the process of transubstantiation, takes place.

The Easter season is a key time to reflect on the origins of sharing communion and the Eucharist. Church teaching and Biblical study says the origin of the Eucharist

occurred at the Last Supper of Jesus, which is commemorated on Holy Thursday. According to the religious resource The Catholic Tradition, the Last Supper in the New Testament set the course for the tenets of the Christian faith. Christian liturgies exist because Jesus Christ told people to do what he had done, in memory of him.

The most detailed account of the first sharing of the Eucharist is found in St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians, which pre-

dates the Gospels. St. Paul 1 Corinthians, Chapter 11, offers nearly verbatim the terminology used in today's Apostolic liturgy. St. Paul's words read:

For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread, and giving thanks, broke, and said: Take ye, and eat: This is My Body, which shall be delivered for you: this do for the commemoration of Me. In like manner also

the chalice, after He had supped, saying: This chalice is the new testament in My Blood: this do ye, as often as you shall drink, for the commemoration of Me. For as often as you shall eat this Bread, and drink the Chalice, you shall show the death of the Lord, until He come.

Jesus and his disciples gathered on the first day of Passover for the Last Supper. In addition to sharing food and wine, Jesus explained that one in their midst would betray Him

and another would deny knowing Him.

Jesus also explained to the disciples how the bread was a symbol of his body and would be broken for them. In addition, the wine was a symbol for his blood and would be poured out for their sins to be forgiven, indicates Bible Study Tools. Additional Christian traditions which emerged during the Last Supper include the washing of feet. Jesus washed his disciples' feet as an example to be servants to all.

From the Last Supper on, faithful Christians follow the guidance of Jesus Christ, and the Eucharist is the central component of masses within many Christian churches. Keeping this feast renews repentance and people's faith in Jesus' blood and sacrifice.

Easter is an opportunity to dive deeper into the Christian faith and the meanings behind the tenets of Christianity.

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The days of Holy Week



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Maundy Thursday commemorates the Washing of the Feet (Maundy) and the Last Supper.

(MetroCreative Connection)

Easter Sunday is often described as the holiest day on the Christian calendar. A day when Christians across the globe commemorate and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, Easter Sunday is the culmination of the Lenten season of sacrifice. Easter Sunday comes on the heels of Holy Week, which is the most sacred week in the liturgical year in Christianity.

Holy Week consists of various days that have their own special significance in the minds and hearts of Christians.

PALM SUNDAY

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week. Trinity College at the University of Melbourne notes that Palm Sunday commemorates Jesus's entry into Jerusalem, where he was greeted with crowds that enthusiastically waved palm branches. In

commemoration of that entry and greeting, Christians receive palm branches or palm crosses during Palm Sunday Mass.

HOLY WEDNESDAY

Once known as "Spy Wednesday," Holy Wednesday focuses on the darkness of Holy Week and is meant to symbolize the abandonment of Jesus by his disciples. The religious service of Tenebrae, which is a Latin word meaning "dark-

ness" or "shadows," is typically observed during Holy Wednesday services.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Maundy Thursday commemorates the Washing of the Feet (Maundy) and the Last Supper. The Last Supper is the final meal Jesus shared with his apostles prior to his crucifixion. Christian scriptures indicate that, during the Last Supper, Jesus predicted his betrayal by one of the apostles present at the meal. It was also during the Last Supper when Jesus foretells that Peter will deny knowing him three times before the next morning. Trinity College notes that Maundy Thursday reminds Christians of the new commandment that Jesus gave his disciples. That commandment was to love others as Jesus has loved them.

GOOD FRIDAY

Good Friday commemo-

rates the trial of Jesus, his subsequent sentence of death, his torture, his crucifixion, and burial. Non-Christians may wonder why a day commemorating such events would be characterized as "good," but Trinity College notes that, in this sense, the word "good" is meant to connote something "holy" or "pious."

HOLY SATURDAY

Holy Saturday marks the conclusion of Holy Week. Celebrations of Holy Saturday typically include a late-night Easter Vigil service that involves a liturgy and ultimately the celebration of the Eucharist. The two-part celebration is designed to commemorate the emergence from darkness into the light that is the Eucharist.

Holy Week is a significant period for Christians across the globe that commemorates many of the events that preceded the resurrection of Jesus Christ.



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The Easter vigil is a liturgy celebrated on Holy Saturday.

Explaining the Easter vigil

(MetroCreative Connection)

Easter is the most significant date on the calendar for Christians across the globe. A celebration of the belief in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, Easter serves as the foundation of the Christian faith. So it's no surprise that a day as significant as Easter is steeped in such incredible tradition.

The Easter vigil is one such tradition. According to CatholicCulture.org, the vigil is a liturgy celebrated on the eve of Easter Sunday, a day known as "Holy Saturday" within the church.

CatholicCulture.org notes that the Easter Vigil is divided into four parts, each with their own unique characteristics and traditions.

SERVICE OF LIGHT

The atmosphere in the church is noticeably different during the Service of Light, when all lights are turned out and the tabernacle is empty. The Service of Light begins outside the church and a new fire is lit and blessed upon entering. A Paschal candle is prepared and the priest lights the candle from the new fire. The candle is processed through the church as each celebrant lights his or her own candle from the Paschal candle, which symbolizes Christ. The Easter proclamation is then sung, explaining the significance of Easter.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

During the Liturgy of the Word, readings are chosen from among seven Old Testament and two New Testament passages. All nine need not be read, but three from the Old Testament must be read. CatholicCulture.org notes that the Gloria is sung before the reading of the Epistle of the Romans, while Alleluia is sung before the Gospel.

LITURGY OF BAPTISM

During the Liturgy of Baptism, the Easter water is blessed and new members are welcomed into the church through the ceremony of baptism. The faithful in attendance who have already been baptized also renew their baptismal promises during this portion of the Easter vigil.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

The Mass resumes during the Liturgy of the Eucharist, and special prayers are inserted during the Eucharist prayer. According to CatholicCulture.org, the whole church is called to join at the sacrificial table that Christ prepared for Christians during his death and resurrection.

The celebration of Easter includes many inspiring traditions. The Easter vigil is one such tradition that the faithful participate in each Holy Saturday.

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The significance of various symbols of Easter

(MetroCreative Connection)

Easter Sunday is a day when Christians across the globe celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Data from the Pew Research Center indicates there are approximately 2.4 billion Christians across the globe, which accounts for nearly one-third of the global population.

Though certain Christian groups do not celebrate Easter, many consider it the holiest day of the year. Given that significance, it's no surprise Easter is steeped in symbolism. The following are some of the many symbols of Easter and what they represent to faithful Christians across the globe.

EGGS

Eggs might now be more instantly associated with Easter egg hunts for children, but the American Bible Society notes that eggs are symbolic of more than just fun for kids. Eggs represent the new life that's symbolic of spring, which is when Easter occurs in the northern hemisphere. Christians view eggs as a reminder of the resurrection of Jesus. Interestingly, though colored eggs are often seen as a fun Easter activity for kids, the ABS notes that the tradition dates back to the early days of Christianity, when red-colored eggs were used



to represent the resurrection.

CRUCIFIX

The crucifix, which is a distinct representation of a cross with Jesus Christ on it, is symbolic of the crucifixion and subsequent resurrection of Jesus. The ABS notes that the resurrection of Jesus symbolizes his victory over the power of sin and death.

THE LAMB

Jesus is referred to in the Bible as the "Lamb of God" (Revelation 5:6-14), so the lamb is another important Easter symbol for Christians. In addition, in John (1:29), Jesus is referred to by John the Baptist as the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."

EASTER BUNNY

Another symbol, like Easter eggs, that people could be forgiven for mistaking as purely secular, the Easter Bunny is not entirely separate from the spiritual meaning of the holiday. As noted, Easter, even though it's a moveable feast, takes place in spring in the northern hemisphere each year. Spring is symbolic of rebirth,



COURTESY OF ENVATO.COM

There are many symbols of Easter across the globe.

and the hare was a symbol of fertility among the ancient pagans. The spirit of rebirth associated with rabbits, particularly in spring,

also is reminiscent of the resurrection of Jesus from his tomb. Easter is celebrated across the globe. Those celebrations feature

many significant religious symbols that have withstood the test of time.

Explaining the symbolism of candles on Holy Saturday

(MetroCreative Connection)

Easter Week is an exciting time for Christians across the globe. Easter Week begins with Palm Sunday and ends on Holy Saturday, and during the week, Christians commemorate the Last Supper on Holy Thursday and the crucifixion of Jesus Christ on Good Friday. Come Holy Saturday, it may seem as though there's little left for Christians to do besides

prepare for Easter Sunday Mass the following day. However, some churches hold Easter Vigil services on the Saturday night before Easter Sunday. During these vigils, some of which may last several hours, priests will light what is known as a Paschal candle. This candle is several feet tall and within it are several rings of incense, which are intended to symbolize the wounds Christ suffered on the day of his

crucifixion. Once the Paschal candle is lit, the priest proceeds to the front of the church, periodically stopping to light various smaller candles. By the time the priest reaches the front of the church, it is illuminated

with what Christians believe is the light of Christ. But the Paschal candle's work does not end on Holy Saturday, as priests will then use the same candle throughout the year during baptisms and funerals.

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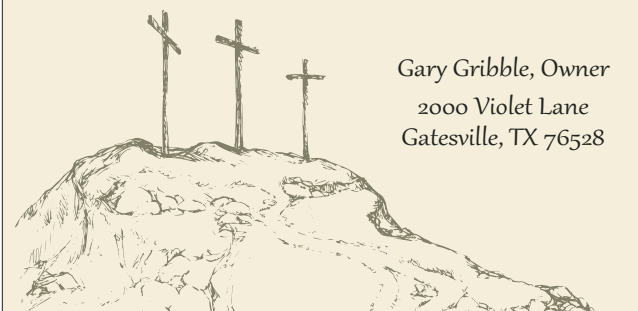
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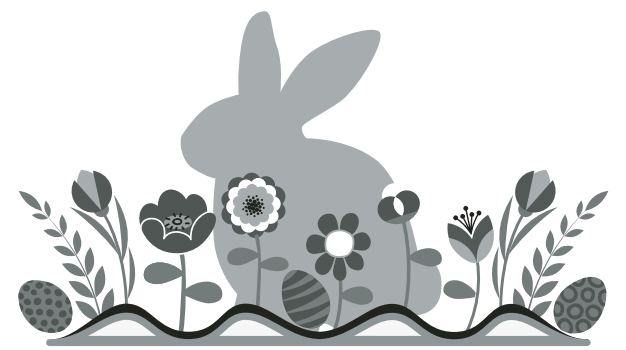
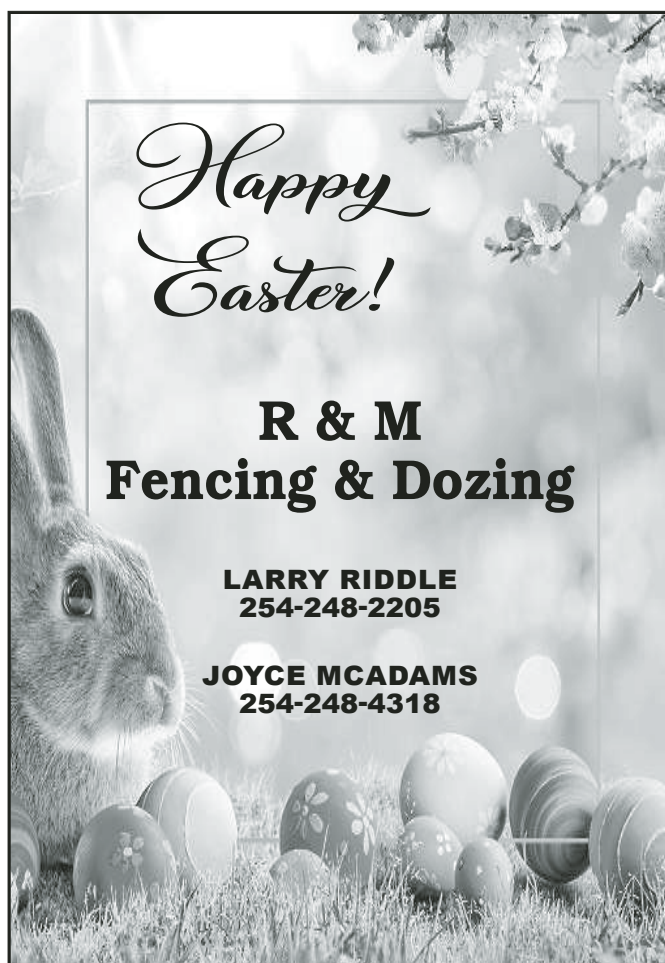


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Tears of Eve: Meanings behind the Easter lily



Tradition states that the Easter lily originated in the Garden of Eden from the teardrops of Eve that spread when she and Adam were cast out of the garden.

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(MetroCreative Connection)

Easter symbols and traditions help make the holiday familiar and special. Eggs, hot cross buns and frilly church dresses help paint the picture, and so does a delicate and beautiful white flower.

The Easter lily plant is native to both Taiwan and the Ryukyu Islands of Japan. The plant's flowering season begins in April and ends in

June. The plant produces pure white flowers on top of long stems. Easter lilies often adorn homes and church altars during this time of year.

Tradition states that the Easter lily originated in the Garden of Eden from the teardrops of Eve that spread when she and Adam were cast out of the garden. These were believed to be tears of repentance.

Historians and biblical scholars say that the lily has always been highly regarded in the Christian Church. Jesus even references the flower in Luke 12:27, stating

“Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.” Legend has it that, after Jesus' death and resurrection, lilies were found growing in the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus is said to have prayed before his crucifixion. They were believed to have sprung up from a drop of sweat from

his brow when his head was bent in prayer.

In Easter celebrations, the lily represents Christ's Resurrection, and thusly new birth and new life. The delicate, white blooms can be viewed as pure, innocent and untainted by the world.

The flower itself is used in various ways to tell the resurrection story. The bulb is buried in the ground as a representation of Christ's

tomb. The trumpet-shaped fragrant flowers also announce life after death, since bulbous flowers often regrow year after year, according to the religious resource All About Jesus. And the trumpet shape signifies the angel Gabriel's trumpet call.

It's common for Easter lilies to decorate homes, churches, gardens, and more throughout the Easter season.

“Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.”

JESUS

“He is not here; He has risen!”
Luke 24:6

AN EMPTY TOMB IS A PROMISE FULFILLED

Join us for Easter services Sunday, April 9
Bible classes begin at 9:30 am | Worship service begins at 10:30 am

Gatesville Church of Christ 2417 E. Main

I am the resurrection and the life





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Explaining the meaning of Easter to children



COURTESY OF ENVATO.COM

Easter is a beloved holiday among children. But even the most faithful youngsters can become confused about the meaning of the most significant day on the Christian calendar.

(MetroCreative Connection)

Explaining Easter to children can be a delicate matter, especially for very young children who may not fully understand the tenets of the Christian faith. Although Easter ends with Jesus Christ emerging from his tomb, prior to this glorious miracle there are subjects of betrayal, suffering and death. These religious messages can confound when commingled with the imagery of bunnies delivering chocolates, chicks and pastel-hued eggs. How do well-meaning parents relay the message of Easter without scaring or confusing children?

TEMPER THE MESSAGE TO THE AUDIENCE

A child's age bears consideration when gauging just how much to share about Easter. Between Palm Sunday, when Jesus triumphantly entered Jerusalem, to Easter Sunday's Resurrection, the story of Easter features torture and death — which are topics not easily digested by anyone, especially children. Even the

core symbol of the Christian faith — the crucifix — is shocking.

For the youngest children, the extent of the torture and betrayal can be muted. For example, parents may say that Jesus was bullied and made fun of and that people didn't believe him when he spoke. Parents can note that even some of the closest friends to Jesus had their doubts. This may be easier for kids to digest because it's

something they may relate to.

Children may not understand the death on the cross; it's even challenging for adults to wrap their minds around that visual. It briefly can be mentioned that he was placed on a cross, as was customary during that era, but forgo the finer details.

FOCUS ON THE RESURRECTION

Parents will not want to talk about death without ending on the high note of Jesus' Resurrection. Remind children that Christ's death was temporary and that He now always will be with adults and children. Read passages from scripture that exemplify the Good News and the happy components of the Easter celebration.

EXPLAIN SECULAR IMAGES

Young children may be more focused on the commercial images of Easter

rather than the religious ones. Parents may want to gear symbolism toward the religious explanations and focus their traditions thusly. Baking hot cross buns can be fun and showcase the crucifix. Explaining how eggs are representative of Jesus Christ's new life when coloring them is another way to cut through mixed messages.

READ BOOKS

Some authors already have taken the challenge out of explaining Easter to children. Visit a religious bookseller, the church or a book store to find Easter stories geared to children.

Parents can decide how to explain Easter to their chil-

dren. Many moms and dads have found that focusing on the joyful aspects of Christ's

resurrection story is a simple, enjoyable way to explain Easter.

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 Happy Easter

Easter Sunrise
 7:00 AM, April 9
 Prayer Garden/Three Cross Hill, CCC
 (Ministerial Association)

Easter Sunday Worship
 11:00 AM, April 9
 The Presbyterian Church Gatesville

The Presbyterian Church
 "ECO: A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians"
 1110 E. Main, Gatesville, TX
 254-865-5328
 www.tpcgatesville.org
 pastorbuddy@embarqmail.com
 Rev. Dr. Buddy Wheat, DMin., Pastor

RESURRECTION SUNDAY!

Join us for service at 11 A.M. TO CELEBRATE the FREEDOM FOUND in Jesus

THE HOUSE THAT GOD BUILT
 2412 EAST MAIN
 Food and Egg hunt to FOLLOW SERVICE!

EASTER BRINGS HOPE
 JOIN US EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 9TH - 10:50 AM
 There is Room for You Under the Tent

SUNDAY, APRIL 9TH
 9:30 AM - Doors Open
 10:00 AM - Easter Egg Hunt, Photos and Refreshments
 10:50 AM - Easter Service

AFTER EASTER CELEBRATION
 There is Hope for You
 Sunday Evening, April 9th - 6:30 PM
 Monday Evening, April 10th - 6:30 PM
 Tuesday Evening, April 11th - 6:30 PM

Trinity Baptist Church
 A Church That Cares
 tbcgatesville.com
 1506 W. Main St., Gatesville, TX
 254-865-8495