



EASTER

AT HOME

WHAT IS EASTER? | SCRIPTURE | THE RESURRECTION | PRAYERS FOR EASTER

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ELMBROOK
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Prayer Wall

Have a prayer request? We have a community of people ready to pray for you! Post your requests on our prayer wall.

VISIT elmbrook.org/prayerwall

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Discussion Group

Are you looking to connect with others and grow in your faith? We have an opportunity that might be for you! Join in with others and walk through sermon discussion questions designed for online group interaction.

VISIT elmbrook.org/discussion



The Easter Greeting: Christ is risen!
Response: He is risen indeed!

“Perhaps the transformation of the disciples of Jesus is the greatest evidence of all for the resurrection.”

by John Stott

What is Easter?

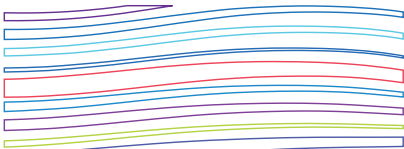
(from Crosswalk.com)

Easter is the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus from the tomb on the third day after his crucifixion. Easter is the fulfilled prophecy of the Messiah who would be persecuted, die for our sins, and rise on the third day. (Isaiah 53). Remembering the resurrection of Jesus is a way to renew daily hope that we have victory over sin. According to the New Testament, Easter is three days after the death of Jesus on the cross.

Easter follows a period called Lent, in which many churches set aside time for repentance and remembrance. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Good Friday, the day of Jesus' crucifixion. The 40 days were established by Pope Gregory I using the 40-day pattern of Israel, Moses, Elijah, and Jesus' time in the wilderness.

The week leading up to Easter is called The Holy Week, or "Passion Week." It includes Palm Sunday (the day Jesus entered Jerusalem and was celebrated), Maundy Thursday (the "Last Supper" where Jesus met with his disciples to observe Passover), and Good Friday (when Jesus would be crucified on the cross).

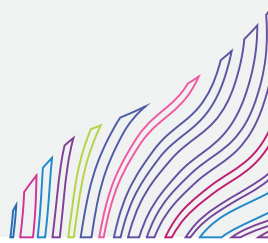
Easter is an important date within Christianity and is the foundation of the Christian faith. Jesus, the Son of God, fulfilled prophecy, and through his death, has given the gift of eternal life to those who believe in his death and resurrection. Read the entire Biblical account of Resurrection Day in Matthew 28, Mark 16, and Luke 24.



The Scripture Passage for Today's Message: 1 Peter 1:3-7 (NIV)

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In all this you greatly rejoice,

though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.



The Resurrection: The Best Explanation of Known Facts

Most agree: you can't argue with the fact that the early disciples believed Jesus rose from the dead. The question is, what caused them to believe it? Here are ten pieces of evidence based on known historical facts (*Gary Habermas*). The most straightforward conclusion from all these facts is that Jesus did indeed rise from the dead.

1	The disciples' eyewitness experiences
2	The early proclamation of the resurrection
3	Their transformation into bold witnesses who were willing to die for their convictions
4	The empty tomb
5	The fact that the resurrection of Jesus was the center of the apostolic message
6	Jewish leaders inability to disprove what the apostles were proclaiming
7	The birth and growth of the church
8	Sunday worship
9	Conversion of James
10	Conversion of Saul

Prayer for Easter, Resurrection Day

(from Prayers for Our Lives: 95 Lifelines to God for Everyday Circumstances)

Almighty God,
On this day, we rejoice in the glory of the resurrection.
The tomb is empty.
Death could not hold the Lord Jesus. His body saw no decay. His enemies did not win.
The earth could not contain him.
We are emboldened by the power of resurrection.
We are encouraged by the hope of resurrection.
We are enlightened by the truth of the resurrection.
So help us, dear God, to have a daily expectation that we will encounter the living Lord Jesus wherever we live.
Help us to live in submission.
And empower us to bring this message of resurrection into every dark and desperate corner of this world.
In the name of the resurrected Lord Jesus,
Amen.

Kid's Prayer for Easter, Resurrection Day

(from A Book of Prayers for Kids: Ways to Talk to God Every Day)

Dear God,
I believe in the Lord Jesus, who was born in Bethlehem, who grew up and became a man, who taught crowds of people, who loved his disciples, who healed the sick, who was arrested by his enemies, was called a criminal, was nailed to a cross.
He died and was placed in a tomb, but on the third day, he rose.
I believe I am forgiven because of Jesus.
And I believe I can be strong because he is alive and is with me today.
Amen.

