

# FESTIVAL INFO

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## EASTER SUNDAY

**Easter**,<sup>[nb 1]</sup> also called **Pascha** ([Aramaic](#), [Greek](#), [Latin](#))<sup>[nb 2]</sup>, [Zatik](#) (Armenian) or **Resurrection Sunday**<sup>[nb 3]</sup> is a [Christian festival](#) and cultural [holiday](#) commemorating the [resurrection of Jesus](#) from the dead, described in the [New Testament](#) as having occurred on the third day of his [burial](#) following his [crucifixion](#) by the [Romans](#) at [Calvary](#) c. 30 AD.<sup>[7][8]</sup> It is the culmination of the [Passion of Jesus](#), preceded by [Lent](#) (or [Great Lent](#)), a 40-day period of [fasting](#), [prayer](#), and [penance](#).

Most [Christians](#) refer to the week before Easter as [Holy Week](#), which in Western Christianity contains the days of the [Easter Triduum](#) including [Maundy Thursday](#), commemorating the [Maundy](#) and [Last Supper](#),<sup>[9][10]</sup> as well as [Good Friday](#), commemorating the crucifixion and death of Jesus.<sup>[11]</sup> In Eastern Christianity, the same days and events are commemorated with the names of days all starting with "Holy" or "Holy and Great;" and Easter itself might be called "Great and Holy Pascha", "Easter Sunday," "Pascha" or "Sunday of Pascha." In [Western](#)

[Christianity](#), [Eastertide](#), or the Easter Season, begins on Easter Sunday and lasts seven weeks, ending with the coming of the 50th day, [Pentecost Sunday](#). In [Eastern Christianity](#), the Paschal season ends with Pentecost as well, but the leave-taking of the Great Feast of Pascha is on the 39th day, the day before the [Feast of the Ascension](#).

Easter and its related holidays are [moveable feasts](#), not falling on a fixed date; [its date](#) is computed based on a [lunisolar calendar](#) (solar year plus Moon phase) similar to the [Hebrew calendar](#). The [First Council of Nicaea](#) (325) established only two rules, namely independence from the Hebrew calendar and worldwide uniformity. No details for the computation were specified; these were worked out in practice, a process that took centuries and generated a number of [controversies](#). It has come to be the first Sunday after the [ecclesiastical full moon](#) that occurs on or soonest after 21 March.<sup>[12]</sup> Even if calculated on the basis of the more accurate Gregorian calendar, the date of that full moon sometimes differs from that of the

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astronomical first full moon after the [March equinox](#).<sup>[13]</sup>

Easter is linked to the Jewish [Passover](#) by its name ([Hebrew](#): [פסח](#) *pesach*, [Aramaic](#): [ܩܕܫܐ](#) *pascha* are the basis of the term Pascha), by its origin (according to the [synoptic Gospels](#), both the crucifixion and the resurrection took place during the [Passover](#))<sup>[14][15]</sup> and by much of its symbolism, as well as by its position in the calendar. In most European languages the feast is called by the words for passover in those languages; and in the older English versions of the Bible the term Easter was the term used to translate passover.<sup>[16]</sup>

[Easter customs](#) vary across the [Christian world](#), and include [sunrise services](#), midnight vigils, exclamations and exchanges of [Paschal greetings](#), [clipping the](#)

[church](#)(England),<sup>[17]</sup> decoration and the communal breaking of [Easter eggs](#) (a symbol of the [empty tomb](#)).<sup>[18][19][20]</sup> The [Easter lily](#), a symbol of the resurrection in Western Christianity,<sup>[21][22]</sup> traditionally decorates the [chancel](#) area

of [churches](#) on this day and for the rest of Eastertide.<sup>[23]</sup> Additional customs that have become associated with Easter and are observed by both Christians and some non-Christians include [Easter parades](#), communal dancing (Eastern

Europe), the [Easter Bunny](#) and [egg hunting](#).<sup>[24][25][26][27][28]</sup> There are also traditional [Easter foods](#) that vary by region and culture.

## THEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The supernatural resurrection from the dead of Jesus, which Easter celebrates, is one of the chief tenets of the Christian faith.<sup>[38]</sup> The resurrection established Jesus as the [Son of God](#)<sup>[39]</sup> and is cited as proof that God will righteously judge the world.<sup>[40][41]</sup> For those who trust in Jesus's death and resurrection, "death is swallowed up in victory."<sup>[42]</sup> Any person who chooses to follow Jesus receives "a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead".<sup>[43]</sup> Through

faith in the working of God those who follow Jesus are spiritually resurrected with him so that they may walk in a new way of life and receive eternal [salvation](#), being physically resurrected to dwell in the [Kingdom of Heaven](#).<sup>[41][44][45]</sup>

Easter is linked to [Passover](#) and the [Exodus from Egypt](#) recorded in the [Old Testament](#) through the [Last Supper](#), [sufferings](#), and [crucifixion of Jesus](#) that preceded the resurrection.<sup>[34]</sup> According to the three [Synoptic Gospels](#), Jesus gave the Passover meal a new meaning, as in the [upper room](#) during the Last Supper he prepared himself and his

disciples for his death.<sup>[34]</sup> He identified the bread and cup of wine as [his body](#), soon to be sacrificed, and [his blood](#), soon to be shed. [Paul](#) states, "Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed";<sup>[46]</sup> this refers to the Passover requirement to have no yeast in the house and to the allegory of Jesus as the [Paschal lamb](#).

