

The Easter Story

The A Special Publication by:

PAMPANEWS



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**SUNDAY MORNING
WORSHIP SERVICE**
10:30 am

GOSPEL SING
Second Sunday
2:00 pm

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9:00 am

Coffee & Donuts in Gathering Space

9:30 am

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THE STORY THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

Easter's story begins long before the events celebrated on Sunday. That beginning could be Palm Sunday – the Sunday before Easter that commemorates Jesus' entry to the city of Jerusalem. It could be Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of the solemn season of Lent. It could even be Christmas Day in December, which celebrates the birth of Jesus in a stable in Bethlehem.

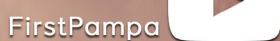
The last week of the life of Jesus, often called Holy Week, is filled with significant events. After several years teaching and performing miracles in the Judean countryside, Jesus and his disciples traveled to the cultural and religious capital of Jerusalem. Throughout his jour-

ney, Jesus repeatedly hinted that the political and religious authorities would have him killed, but his disciples did not believe that what he said would actually happen.

By Sunday morning, Jesus had been arrested, condemned and killed, and his followers had mostly scattered. His teachings and ministry seemed like they had all come to nothing. But when three of his disciples went to visit his tomb, what they found would change the course of history.

The following passages, drawn from the four gospels as found in the King James Version of the Bible, tell that story.

CTW FEATURES



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Easter

He is Risen!

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Happy Easter

“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.’” Matt 28 5-6



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Easter Services

Service of Darkness

Friday, April 7 • 7:00 pm

Easter Morning Worship

Sunday, April 9 • 10:30 am

Sunday Morning will be on our Facebook page
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“He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said....” *Matthew 28:6*

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Thursday: The Last Supper

Jesus and his followers gathered together in a rented room in Jerusalem to eat the traditional Passover meal. The Jewish people had observed this ritual supper since the time of Moses. Jesus hints that his death is at hand. Christians sometimes use the name “Maundy Thursday” or “Holy Thursday” to describe this day in the life of Jesus.

Partway through the meal, Jesus shares the bread and wine on the table, which would take on new meaning after his death and resurrection.

Mark 14:22-25: “And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body. And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it. And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many. Verily I say unto you, I will drink no more of the fruit of the vine, until that day that I drink it new in the kingdom of God.”



The Only Road is Through



By VONDEL STEVENS
Pastor of St. Paul UMC
Pampa

Not long ago, I picked up a book of Lenten poems by Ann Weems, who was known as “the Presbyterian Poet Laureate.” Many of the poems in this book are outstanding and thought-provoking, but one in particular caught my heart. It is simply entitled “Holy Week,” and it begins with these words:

Holy is the week...

Holy, consecrated, belonging to God...

We move from hosannas to horror with the predictable ease of those who know not what they do.

She goes on to narrate the story of Holy Week – the cursing of the fig tree, the cleansing of the temple, the anointing of Jesus by Mary, and the Last Supper. Then, she ends her poem reflecting on the events of Good Friday:

And on that darkest of days, each of us must stand beneath the tree and watch the dying if we are to be there when the stone is rolled away. The only road to Easter morning is through the unrelenting shadows of that Friday.

Only then will the alleluias be sung; only then will the dancing begin. (From *Kneeling in Jerusalem*, Westminster John Knox Press, 1993.)

“The only road to Easter Morning is through the unrelenting shadows of [Good] Friday.” I think we often forget the truth of that statement. We rush from the glorious “Hosannas” of Palm Sunday straight to the glorious “He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!” of Easter; and when we do, we miss the opportunity to experience the depth of Christ’s self-

sacrificing love for us on the cross, as well as the grief and sorrow experienced by Jesus’ first disciples.

For that reason, my favorite Holy Week service is Tenebrae, an extended meditation on the passion of Christ. As worshipers enter the church, they are greeted by 14 lighted candles, plus a candle representing Christ. As the story of Jesus’ betrayal, trial, and crucifixion is read, candles are snuffed one-by-one, leaving the sanctuary a little darker each time. After each reading, silence is also observed, allowing the depth of Jesus’ suffering love to sink into one’s heart. As the final scripture – where Jesus is sealed in the tomb – is read, the Christ Candle is snuffed; and worshipers leave in silence and darkness.

The darkness itself is palatable, and one is left with the sense of grief Jesus’ disciples must have felt on that terrible day. Unlike us, they didn’t know Jesus would be resurrected 3 days later. They couldn’t glibly skip from Palm Sunday to Easter because they didn’t know Easter was coming. For them, all hope had vanished. The One they thought to be the Messiah was dead and lain in a rock-sealed tomb.

Three days later, however, their hope was revived, and their joy was overflowing! Jesus – their Messiah and Savior – was alive! The darkness and grief of Good Friday had been dispelled by the resurrected Light of the World! Their joy was incalculable because they had experienced immeasurable grief. Only those who allow themselves to experience the deep grief of Good Friday can know the ecstatic joy of Jesus’ resurrection. Otherwise, our Easter gladness will be shallow and fade quickly. Light is more glorious for those who have been wrapped in darkness.

Re-experiencing the darkness and grief of Good Friday also reminds us Christians are an Easter people in the midst of a Good Friday world. Al-

STEPHENS continued on page 4

Happy Easter

THANK YOU JESUS CHRIST



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Thursday: Jesus Prays in the Garden

After the meal, Jesus took his closest disciples to a nearby garden called Gethsemane, where he prayed.

Luke 22:39-42: "And he came out, and went, as he was wont, to the mount of Olives; and his disciples also followed him. And when he was at the place, he said unto them, Pray that ye enter not into temptation. And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed, Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done."

The Triumphal Entry



Mike Carlisle

This week Palm Sunday is of particular importance in the Christian faith. It is a time when Christians celebrate the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem; It's the commencement of what becomes known as Holy

Week. Christians will gather and remember those words, "Hosanna to the Son of David! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' (quoted from Matthew 21 verse 9)

It's an opportunity to worship Him for his entry into the world and a time to reflect on His entrance into our lives.

It's a time in Christian History that brought the fulfillment of many prophecies, also fulfilling the passage in **Zechariah 9:9** **NLT**

"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!

Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem!

Behold, your King is coming to you;

He is just and having salvation,

Lowly and riding on a donkey,

A colt, the foal of a donkey.

The prophecies were fulfilled through Jesus in words written by Zechariah some 700 years plus before His birth in the flesh; in the flesh, numerous signs, wonders, and miracles followed, all to change the hearts of men and women and BELIEVE!

As Jesus rode into Jerusalem, the crowds waved Palms branches and shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' Acknowledging and Celebrating the King. The king

they thought would overthrow Rome and put everything back to normal.

Some didn't realize that wasn't the reason for His coming, and some, even disciples, realized it sometime later. His arrival was not about establishing an Earthly Kingdom but a Kingdom in Heaven where "anyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

They welcomed Him on Palm Sunday with open arms, waving palm branches, placing their coats over the puddles as He arrived, and within just a few days, that same crowd that shouted "Hosanna, to the Son of David" would cry out, "Crucify Him!"

Let the days of Holy week leading up to Easter Sunday be not only a reminder of the welcoming of Jesus into our lives but a willingness to follow.

Stephens

Continued From Page 3

though Jesus was resurrected and is alive forevermore, we still live in a world of darkness, grief, and pain. As Christ-followers, we have been commissioned by Jesus to spread the light and love of God to the darkened world around us. God has also called us to comfort those who grieve with the same comfort and hope God has given us through Christ's death and resurrection. This Holy Week may we experience God's comfort and hope anew by traveling the road through "the unrelenting shadows" of Good Friday to the eternal joy of Easter morning. "Only then will the alleluias be sung; only then will the dancing begin."

Blood of the Lamb

By Kathryn Hupp

Roman soldier, did you know that the wound from your cruel blow

Cause the blood of God's own lamb,

To flow warmly on your hand?

Blood shed freely for each soul.

This was known...by God foretold.

Blood that cleanses, once for all,

When upon His name you call.

Roman soldier, did you heed?

Did you turn to God in need?

God forgives if you repent.

That is why the blood was spent.



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Friday: Jesus Arrested

After midnight, Jesus woke his followers, who had fallen asleep as he prayed. Judas Iscariot, one of his closest twelve disciples, had arrived in the garden with a group of soldiers to arrest his teacher.

Matthew 26:45-47, 49: "Rise, let us be going: behold, he is at hand that doth betray me. And while he yet spake, lo, Judas, one of the twelve, came, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and elders of the people. And forthwith he came to Jesus, and said, Hail, master; and kissed him."



May the miracle of His resurrection bring hope and comfort to your heart and home this Easter season.

The Pampa News
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The Core Of Christianity Is EMPTY



Mike Sublett

BY MIKE SUBLETT

What is the core of the Christian faith?

One of the best places to find the answer to that question is in 1 Cor. 15:1-8 "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. 2By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. 3For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. 6After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. 7Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, 8and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born."

The "core" of Christianity is the GOSPEL and Paul lays out a spectacular synopsis of the GOSPEL in these 8 verses. The death, burial and resurrection of Jesus is the core of the Christian faith.

With that in mind, what if I told you that the GOSPEL contained not only the EMPTY tomb, but another EMPTY that was just as important and powerful? Would that surprise you?

To uncover this other EMPTY, we first need to start with the burial of Jesus. Here is Kermit Zarley's blended account with every detail from all 4 of the Gospels. "With Pilate's permission, Joseph came, took down the body and wrapped it in the linen cloth. He was accom-

panied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of clean linen cloth. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, Joseph's own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. The Sabbath was about to begin, and since the tomb was nearby, they took Jesus' body and laid it there, where no one had ever been laid. Then they rolled a big stone against the entrance of the tomb and went away."

Jesus' burial was in accordance with Jewish customs of the day, similar to what we read concerning Lazarus' burial in Jn. 11:43-44: "When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, 'Take off the grave clothes and let him go.'"

Jesus was covered with an inordinate amount of spices (75 lbs.) because of the splendor of who He was. Normally only 1-2 pounds would be used. Then, like Lazarus, His dead body was first wrapped round and round with strips of linen and then a burial cloth placed round His head.

On RESURRECTION Sunday morning, after the women had witnessed the EMPTY tomb, they ran to tell the disciples. When they heard the women's testimony, Peter bolted out the door, heading for the tomb to check things out for himself. John also sprinted to the tomb, but even faster than Peter, so he arrived first. Peter entered the EMP-

Friday: The Trial

Jesus was beaten and questioned by Pontius Pilate, the ruler appointed by the conquering Roman government. Though Pilate said he found no evidence that Jesus had broken the law, he nevertheless handed Jesus over to the religious authorities who demanded his execution.

John 19:5-6: "Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple robe. And Pilate saith unto them, Behold the man! When the chief priests therefore and officers saw him, they cried out, saying, Crucify him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Take ye him, and crucify him: for I find no fault in him."



**Blessings to You
This Easter Season**

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Ascension of Jesus - May 18th
Pentecost - May 28th 

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For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16

<p>Sunday 9:45 a.m. Bible Study 11 a.m. Worship (broadcast on KGRO) 5:00 p.m. Worship</p>	<p>Wednesday 6:30 p.m. Adults, Youth, Children & Preschool Activities</p>
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Friday: The Execution

Jesus was taken outside the city walls to be executed by the Roman method of crucifixion. With him were two other convicts who were also to be killed that day.

John 19:17-18: "And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha: Where they crucified him, and two others with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst."

The Death of Jesus

With a large crowd watching, Jesus died. The Roman empire kept time differently than we do today; the "sixth hour" corresponds roughly to the modern-day 12 p.m. and the "ninth hour" to about 3 p.m.

Friday is traditionally known as "Good Friday" by Christians. While it may seem contradictory – what could possibly be good about Jesus' death? – the name comes from an old meaning of the word "good": holy.

Matthew 27:45-46, 50: "Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, *Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?* That is to say, *My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?* ... Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost."



Sublett Continued From Page 5

TY tomb fist, then John.

Zarley's blended account: "Peter and the other disciple, however, got up and started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying there by themselves, as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. He went away, wondering to himself what had happened. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed."

Notice that the EMPTY tomb was only one EMPTY that stunned them. There was another EMPTY that hit them both even harder than the EMPTY tomb. What was it? The EMPTY GRAVE CLOTHING.

The EMPTY tomb could just have meant that someone stole the body. The Romans thought that made enough sense that it was the lie they adopted. But no tomb thief would or could EMPTY the linen strips. They would have to unwrap Jesus' body just to steal the body by itself. But that isn't what Peter and John found. They found the wrapped linen strips EMPTY. And also no grave robber would carefully fold up the burial cloth that covered His head. The EMPTY GRAVE CLOTHS and COVERING were an even more powerful EMPTY than the tomb.

So why all of this emphasis on EMPTY? The EMPTY tomb and the EMPTY grave clothing are 2 of the proofs that legitimize the resurrection of Jesus. The core of Christianity is the GOSPEL, which is the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. Two proofs of that resurrection are EMPTY. So it can be said, "YES, the core of the Christian faith is EMPTY X 2." God bless.

Happy Easter

from Dr. Kyle Chambers, DDS and team



"If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

Romans 10:9

Kyle R. Chambers DDS
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Saturday: His Body is Buried

Joseph of Arimathaea, a disciple of Jesus, and Nicodemus, a religious official, paid to have the body of Jesus quietly buried. By local custom, the body was not embalmed but buried as soon as possible after death. The body lay untouched through Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath day, because no one could go near a dead body on this holy day.

John 19:41-42: "Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid. There laid they Jesus therefore because of the Jews' preparation day; for the sepulchre was nigh at hand."



Happy Easter

FROM OUR TEAM



The reverence of Easter



Zachary Green

Easter is the time when the world celebrates Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. Without this wonderful sacrifice by Him and God, we would have no hope for a better place after we pass on from this life. In the churches of Christ we celebrate Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection every Sunday by participating in communion.

As members of the church of Christ we partake in communion every Sunday and not just Easter Sunday. 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 is where we are commanded to participate in communion. The bread represents Jesus' body he gave for our sins on the cross. The cup of juice represents the blood he shed on the cross again for our sins. Acts 20:7 is where it tells us the disciples came together to break bread on the first day of the week.

John 2:18-22 Jesus foretells the future. He tells them the temple (His Body) will be destroyed (death on the cross) and in three days will be rebuilt (resurrection).

Romans 6:1-11 reminds us that yes Jesus died for our sins and if we believe he is the Son of God and died the horrible death on the cross for us, we can have hope of eternal life because his grace covers our sins. However, that does not mean we can just keep on living our lives in sin. Verse 3 says we must be baptized into his death. Our baptism represents a death to our old life of sin and when we come up from the waters of baptism this signifies a new life and a fresh start. Later in that chapter we read verse 23 where it tells us "the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Christ came for all and the gift of eternal life is free! BUT, we still must follow the plan of Salvation to be saved and gain the crown of life we are told about in Revelation 2:10. We can gain that crown of life if we remain faithful unto death and be the example Christ would want us to be in everything we do in our lives.

The plan is to Hear the Gospel, Romans 10:17. Believe what we hear is true, John 3:16. Repent of our sins, Acts 17:30. Confess our sins and confess the name of Jesus and that he was sent for us, Romans 10:10. Be baptized under water for the remission of our sins, Acts 2:38.

We welcome you to join us at any of our services. We have Sunday Morning Bible Class at 9:30 AM. Worship is at 10:30 AM. We also have a Wednesday Bible Study at 7 PM. Sunday morning Worship services are live streamed on YouTube. Search "Mary Ellen and Harvester Church of Christ." We also post daily scriptures and messages as well as a link to services on our Facebook page: @MEHCOC.

Zac Green is the Pulpit Minister at the Mary Ellen and Harvester Church of Christ. Find them on Facebook: @MEHCOC. You can contact the church at 806-665-0031 or by email office@mehcofc.org. Their website is www.mehcofc.org



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Sunday: Fear and Great Joy

With the Sabbath over, Jesus' disciples Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome came to the tomb to anoint the body with ritual herbs. They worried that they would not be able to roll away the heavy stone that blocked the entrance to the tomb.

When they reached it, they found that the stone was already gone, and an angel greeted them. This encounter began the story of the Christian faith.

© CTW FEATURES

Matthew 28:5-8a: "And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you. And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy."



HAPPY EASTER!

We wish you a happy and prosperous Easter! May you be surrounded by love and joy, as well as lots of delicious food and wonderful company.



Listen Up...

We'd like to wish everybunny we know a very happy Easter!



Here's hoping your Easter is delightful in every way, from start to finish.

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Explaining the Stations of the Cross



Tradition features prominently 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.



Did you know?

Easter wells are colorful, traditional decorations in Germany and Franconian Switzerland. The custom of Osterbrunnen, which started in the early 20th century, includes decorating public fountains and wells with Easter eggs. The tradition begins on Good Friday and continues until two weeks after Easter. According to the Bavarian tourism site www.bavaria.by, before the wells are decorated,

they are first cleaned in a ceremony known as "Brunnen fegen," which loosely translates to "sweeping the well." Once cleansed, the well is dressed and decorated. The practice traces back to the belief in water as a life-giving force. Some infants are even baptized in the well's water, and others drink the Easter water as a protection against illness.

6 Easter egg coloring tips



Coloring Easter eggs is a time-honored tradition dating back more than 2,500 years. There is evidence that people living in the ancient settlement of Trypillia dyed eggs. Ancient Persians also were believed to paint eggs for Nowruz (Persian New Year).

Christians adopted similar traditions to symbolize aspects of the Easter story. Originally Christians dyed eggs red to represent the blood of Jesus Christ that was shed on the cross, according to Chase Oaks Church. Good Housekeeping reports early Christian missionaries adapted the dying tradition to include more egg colors to represent different aspects of the Easter story. Yellow represented the resurrection, blue represented love and red remained a symbol of Christ's blood.

Whether families dye eggs to symbolize the Easter miracle or simply for fun, the following are some coloring tips to enhance the process.

1. Prevent cracked eggs. Most colored eggs are hard-boiled. To prevent cracking during the boiling process, add a teaspoon of vinegar and a tablespoon of salt to the boiling water. Additional anti-cracking measures include rubbing half a lemon on each shell before boiling.

2. Boil eggs and cool completely. It takes roughly 10 minutes to hard-boil an egg. Fill a pot with enough water to submerge the eggs, then bring it to a boil over medium-high heat. Gently lower the eggs into the water with a slotted spoon. Cover, reduce the heat to a simmer, and cook for 10 minutes. Drain the eggs and cool in a bowl of water or run under cold tap water.

3. Don't forget the vinegar. Whether you use colored dye tablets or drops of food coloring from the pantry, use a mix of water and vinegar in the coloring solution. According to Education.com, food coloring is an acid dye and bonds using hydrogen. This chemical process only works in an acidic environment. Vinegar is added to water to make it more acidic and help the dyes adhere more strongly to the eggs and produce brighter colors.

4. Stick to white eggs. Stores sell both brown and white eggs. The species of chicken determines whether the eggs will be white or brown. When coloring eggs, it might be better to purchase white eggs, as the dyes will show up more vividly on the white shells.

5. Create distinctive designs. By covering portions of the bare eggs before dipping into color, people can create unique designs. Things like masking tape, rubber bands, wax (or crayons), and even twine can be used. The dye will only take on the uncovered areas, leaving white behind.

6. Dyes are not the only way to color eggs. Everything from watercolor paint to acrylics to decoupage can be used to cover eggs in vivid colors. Egg decorators also can use colored yarns, fabric or stickers. Search for creative materials to set Easter eggs apart this year.

Coloring eggs is a popular Easter tradition, and there are many ways to ensure this beloved activity produces beautiful results.

A Time to Rejoice & Celebrate

In this season of

hope, joy and

renewal, we

wish you a

blessed &

Happy

Easter



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April 2023

Easter Services

BAPTIST

- **CALVARY BAPTIST** - 900 E. 23rd Ave.
 Good Friday Worship Experience - April 7th: 6:30 pm
 Easter Egg Hunt - April 8th: 3:00 pm
 Easter Service - April 9th: 8:00 am
- **CENTRAL BAPTIST** - 513 E. Francis Ave.
 Easter Cantata - April 2nd: 5:00 pm
 Easter Services - April 9th: 11:00 am and 5:00 pm
- **CORNERSTONE BAPTIST** - 2410 W. 23rd Ave.
 Worship Night - April 2nd: 6:00 pm at MK Brown Heritage Room
- **FIRST BAPTIST** - 203 N. West St.
 Eggstravaganza - April 2nd: 5:00 pm
 At Austin Elementary
 Easter Service - April 9th: 11:00 am
- **FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LEFORS** - 315 E. 4th St., Lefors
 Baptism Service/ Palm Sunday - April 2nd
 Community Easter Cookout and Egg Hunt - April 8th
- **GRACE BAPTIST** - 824 Barnes St.
 Easter Service - April 9th: 11 am and 1:00 pm
- **HIGHLAND BAPTIST** - 301 N. Banks St
 Service of Darkness - April 7th: 7:00 pm
 Easter Service - April 9th: 10:30 am

BIBLE

- **FAITH BIBLE** - 205 N. Cuyler St.
 Resurrection Sunday - All Day

INTER-DENOMINATIONAL

- **BRIARWOOD CHURCH** - 1800 W. Harvester Ave.
 Worship Night - April 2nd: 6:00 pm
 At MK Brown Heritage Room
 Easter Sunrise Service - April 9th: 8:00 am at Rhoades' Ranch

METHODIST

- **FIRST UNITED METHODIST** - 201 E. Foster Ave.
 Resurrection Sunday - April 9th: 10:30 am
- **ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST** - 511 N. Hobart St.
 Good Friday Service - April 7th: 7:00 pm
 Easter Breakfast - April 9th: 9:30 am
 Easter Service - April 9th: 10:30 am

PENTECOSTAL

- **UNITED PENTECOSTAL** - 610 Naida St.
 Palm Sunday - April 2nd: 11:00 am

PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS

- **PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS** - 1700 Alcock St.
 Easter Service - April 9th: 10:30 am

OTHER

- **TRINITY FELLOWSHIP** - 2225 N. Hobart St.
 Resurrection Rally - April 1st: 11:00 am to 2:00 pm
 Good Friday Service - April 7th: 7:00 pm at the Worship Center
 Resurrection Sunday Services - April 9th: 9:00 am and 11:00 am
- **Redeemer Pampa** - 225 N. Cuyler
 Good Friday Service - April 7th: 6:00 pm
 Easter Service - April 9th: 11:00 am



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Received up into Heaven

So then, after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen. — MARK 16:19-20

And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy: And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen. — LUKE 24:51-53

WISHING YOU A



Blessed
Easter Season

"He is not here, for He is risen..." Matthew 28:6



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Jesus and Just the Right Word

By DAVID MOORE



David Moore

I have spent the last few weeks looking as deeply as I know how into the account of Jesus' trials, death, and burial in the Gospel of John. I wanted to find every detail I could discover in John's account and then try to put into words the abiding meaning of the Lord's experience according to John. John's account is familiar. Of the Gospel writers, John alone relates the trial of Jesus before the former high priest, Annas. Trial number six was Jesus' sentencing by Pilate. Actually, "trial" is hardly the right word. I'm still working on just the right word. I've thought of many ways to describe adequately this travesty of justice in a so-called "hearing." I have two bookshelves devoted to translations, dictionaries, and other word studies. I pored

through them for just the right words to paint a "word picture" of Jesus' trials, beatings, scourging, crown, thorns, cross, nails, spear, insult, mocking, death, anointing, burial. Yet, just the right words for all He endured did not come, except for one: "Why?"

I asked myself questions from the life and ministry of Jesus that begin with "Why." Why did Jesus leave glory with the Father to take on the humanness that could give the Father glory? Why would He choose to spend a year in obscurity teaching twelve men what it truly means to be human before God? Why would He ever lay aside a year of popularity to spend the final year of His life in one antagonizing confrontation after another? Why would He speak of time "not yet" but an hour coming? Why would He endure what He endured in silence? Why would He address the simple trust of His last words to the One who sent Him for all this?

In John's Gospel, Jesus Himself answers each of these "Whys." He would not allow people to spend eternity away from their Creator. He valued each one who followed Him and enabled them to go forward in His work. He came to overcome the death and destruction that sin offers and then offer instead life with God to all who would see the life of God in Him. He would control just how He would make this happen. Never faltering, never compromising; simply accomplishing the work the Father gave Him to do. His answer to "Why" for it all is in one word: love. Jesus is love and gave love and gives love. For me, love is just the right word.

