

HE HAS RISEN

A Special Publication by:
THE PAMPA NEWS



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Easter

He is Risen!

Easter with First Baptist Pampa
We can't wait to worship with you!

 First Baptist Church
PAMPA



*Pentecostal
Holiness Church
1700 Alcock*

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

**GOSPEL SING
Second Sunday
2:00 pm**

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 journey, 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.

He is Risen!

Sunday

9:45pm Bible Study
11:00pm Worship
5:00pm Worship

Wednesday

5:45pm Dinner
6:15pm Adult & Youth

Central Baptist Church

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ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN!



CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED!



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Good Friday, April 18, 7 pm

Sunday, April 20, 10:30 am

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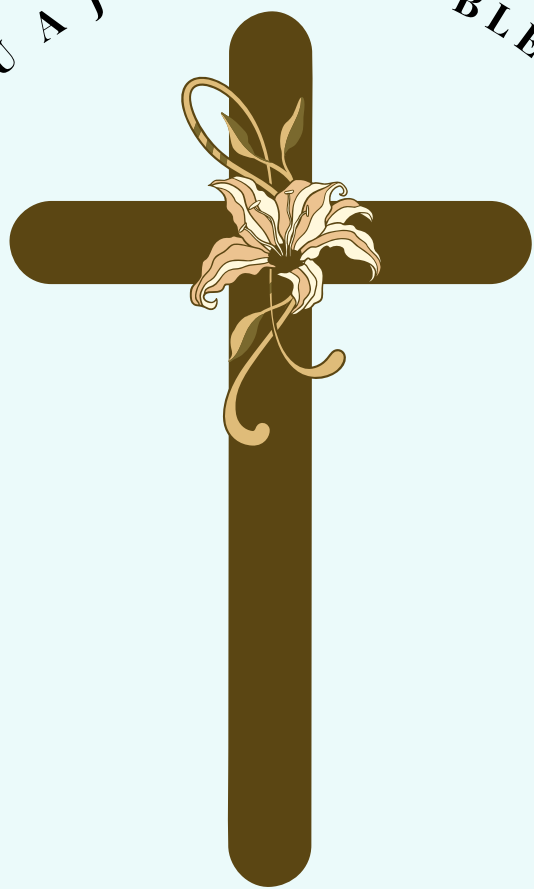
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Thursday THE LAST SUPPER

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.”

WISHING YOU A JOYOUS AND BLESSED EASTER



He Is RISEN

*The Lord Has Conquered Death
And Brought Us New Life.*

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

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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.”

HE IS NOT HERE
HE HAS RISEN
JUST AS HE SAID

MATTHEW 28:6



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Happy Easter

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Friday JESUS IS 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.”

The Reverence of Easter

BY 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 re-

minds 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 and Sunday evening at 4 PM. We also have a Wednesday Bible Study at 6 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.

Zachary Green is one of the ministers at the Mary Ellen and Harvester Church of Christ. Frankie Lemons is the other minister. 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.



Easter Services

Easter Sunday Schedule:

Sunday School: 9:45 am

Worship Service: 11:00 am

Sermon will be given by Brother Brian Mullins

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Blessings to You This Easter Season

Easter - April 20th

Ascension of Jesus - May 29th

Pentecost - June 8th

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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.”

Unique Ways To Strengthen Your Faith During Holy Week

Spring is a special time of year for a number of reasons, not the least of which is the season is a particularly meaningful time for individuals of various faiths. Sacred days for many of the world’s religions are celebrated in spring, including Easter. Christians celebrate Easter, which commemorates the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, after a lengthy period of spiritual preparation known as Lent. Directly preceding Easter, Holy Week is a time for prayer, reflection and renewal.

Holy Week also can be an ideal opportunity for those who may not be as fully immersed in their faith as they would like to return to the church and embrace all that Christianity has to offer. The following are some unique ways people can deepen their faith this Easter season.

Attend Mass

Various liturgies take place during Holy Week, including the Palm Sunday procession, Holy Thursday (Last Supper) Mass, Good Friday services, and the Easter Vigil.

Each of these liturgies carries a special message and significance that offers powerful ways to be in the presence of God.

Pray the Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross are commonly prayed during Lent, particularly on Good Friday. Traditionally there are 14 Stations of the Cross, each depicting a different moment in Jesus’ Passion and Death. Praying the stations often is a group church activity, but they also can be prayed solo.

Getting an up close and personal understanding of the final moments in the life of Jesus Christ can have a transformative effect.

Confess your sins

Reconciliation, commonly referred to as “going to confession,” is a practice that certain Christians denominations, but not all, participate in as part of their faith. Catholics engage in confession as a sacramental grace. While confession is encouraged as often as a person desires, being absolved from sin in preparation

for Easter and other major holy days is particularly encouraged.

Visit a holy shrine

People can take a trip to a holy site or shrine during Holy Week as a powerful way to connect with God and deepen their faith. Many church communities have Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration Chapels where people can view a monstrance, which is used to hold the consecrated Eucharist.

Serve others

Use Holy Week as an opportunity to serve others, whether through

charitable efforts at a soup kitchen, visiting the elderly in a nursing home or through participation in another charitable endeavor. Certain religious communities conduct “washing of the feet” events when parishioners can cleanse others’ feet as Jesus cleaned the feet of his disciples. This demonstrates humility, love and service, and also can strengthen faith.

Holy Week is a prime time for individuals to learn about their faith and embrace it more fully.

Happy
EASTER!





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The Pampa News

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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.”

Good Friday Is A BIG DEAL Too!

BY MIKE SUBLETT

If you are a real-deal Christian, I don’t really have to ask you if Easter Sunday (aka-Resurrection Sunday) is a BIG DEAL in your life. Why? Because it is the celebration of Jesus’ victory over death, not only for Himself, but for all of humanity throughout all of time. Without that empty tomb, Christianity would just be another hollow, useless world religion like Islam, Hinduism, Judaism, etc. However, because of that empty tomb, Jesus’ words in John 14:6 have once and for all been proven to be the most significant truth of all time. “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

There is one and only one path into God’s presence in heaven: JESUS CHRIST! Now let’s shift gears to another question that might not be so easily answered. Is Good Friday a BIG DEAL in your life? Many of you real-deal Christians who are reading this article are probably thinking something like: 1-“Well, kind of.”; or maybe 2-“Yes, but not on par with Easter.” Well, in an effort to motivate you to move Good Friday up on your BIG DEAL list, let me challenge you with a little information about Good Friday. First, did you know that in the New Testament letters which were written about and to the

early Christians/churches (Acts-Revelation) the resurrection of Jesus is mentioned 52 times, but the crucifixion is talked about 151 times? Now I’m not great with math, but even I can figure out that that is about a 3 to 1 ratio. That means that for every reference to the resurrection in Acts-Revelation there are 3 to the crucifixion. Now that you know that, why? If the resurrection is the most important truth for real-deal Christians to focus on, then why did the Holy Spirit inspire writers to talk tons more about the crucifixion? Hummmmm? Second, when Jesus decided to institute the memorial feast that we call

communion (aka Lord’s Supper), why did He design it to focus on the crucifixion instead of the empty tomb? The bread and the fruit of the vine clearly focus on the body that was nailed to the cross on Friday and the blood that was shed on the cross on Friday. Neither of them point to the empty tomb on Sunday. How come? Hummmmmmm? These two questions can only be properly answered when we face the fact that Jesus knew that we needed to spend more time focusing on His sacrifice than on our victory. We live in an age that tells people that only the positive things in life are important. Counsel-

ors, even many Christian counselors, try harder to build “self-esteem” than to help people face their fallenness and turn to Jesus in repentance. Sad, but true. Jesus knew both the truthfulness and importance of His victory over death on Sunday, but He also knew that the power of the empty tomb would not be what would empower His followers in the deep waters of dedicated discipleship and sacrifice for Him and His Kingdom’s sake; not what would strengthen them to face martyrdom in His name. He knew that empowerment would come only when believers couldn’t take their eyes off of Friday and the

cross and the body and the nails and the blood and the suffering. When believers come face to face with their indebtedness to the sacrificial Lamb of God, that is when they can and will face anything and anyone for the glory of their Master, the One who gave it all on Friday. So am I suggesting that you minimize your celebration on Resurrection Sunday? NO WAY! Just elevate your observance (not celebration) of Good Friday. Without His suffering that Friday, there would have been no empty tomb on Sunday. God bless.

Mike “Pawdad” Sublett, Pastor @ Hi-Land Christian Church, Pampa, Texas 79065, 630-730-8015

Holy Week...

April 13th- Sunday

Palm Sunday- Rite I: 8:00 a.m. • Rite II: 10:30 a.m.

April 16th: Wednesday

Community Dinner 5:30 p.m.
Tenebrae Service 6:00 p.m.

April 17th- Thursday

Agape Meal 6:00 p.m.
Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 p.m.

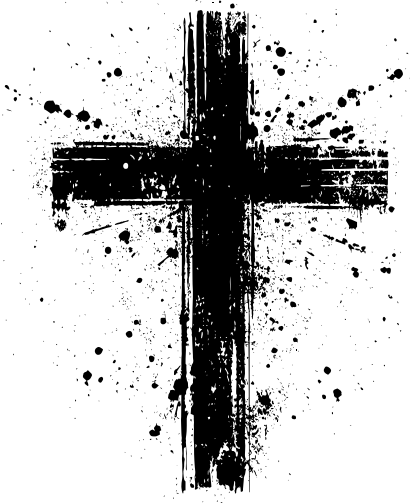
April 19th- Friday

Good Friday Service - Noon
Evening of Music & Meditation- 6:00 p.m.

April 20th- Easter Sunday- ONE SERVICE ONLY!

Brunch & Easter Egg Hunt 9:15 a.m.
Rite II: 10:30 a.m.

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Saturday HIS BODY WAS 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.”

What If The Resurrection Never Happened?

Over 150,000 people die each day globally. Never in my lifetime has there been a single news report about someone dying, then rising from the dead to not die again. In the years I have been a minister and conducted numerous funerals, never have I observed a single person that has been laid to rest, then raised up to avoid death again. In history there have been people who were dead for seconds, minutes or even hours—then came back to life. But never has there been one who has died, been buried, then days later raised from the dead, to escape its clutches forever. At no time has there ever been such a case—except for one. Jesus.

Understandably, the story of Jesus being resurrected has its critics.

“A historical fact which involves a resurrection from the dead is utterly inconceivable” wrote the late Dr. Rudolph Bultmann, an influential New Testament German theologian. However, there are many who believe the biblical story of Jesus’ resurrection, such as Bible scholar, Dr. N.T. Wright, who has done extensive research on the resurrection. He says, “Because he is raised from the dead, he is Lord of the world, sovereign over the whole cosmos, the one before whom we bow the knee, believing that in the end every creature will come to do so as well.”

From the day Jesus’ tomb was found empty until today, the debate over Jesus’ resurrection has been as divisive as

ever among scholars. What if the critics are right? What if Jesus died, but never rose from the dead? What if the resurrection never happened and there was no Easter to celebrate? This presents at least three major problems.

1-A spiritual problem. According to Christian teaching, Jesus’ death provided the shedding of blood for the forgiveness of mankind’s sin. His resurrection completed the work. No resurrection would mean no forgiveness. Humanity would be cursed to bear the guilt and shame of their sin forever. All people would be destined to a vain life and fearful death because of no hope beyond ourselves. The Bible declares this, “And if Christ has not been raised, your

faith is futile and you are still in your sins.” (1 Corinthians 15:17)

2-A moral problem. According to Christian teaching, God declares He does not lie and condemned the deceptive act among His followers in the Ten Commandments. If the resurrection never happened then God is a liar. Jesus is a liar. The whole Bible is a lie. The billions of Christians for the last 2,000 years are all liars, and Christianity is humankind’s greatest conspiracy. The Scriptures addresses this as well, “And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ...” (1 Cor. 15:14-

15)


3-A theological problem. According to Christian teaching, Jesus was not a mere man but divine and His resurrection was ultimate proof. If Jesus had not risen from the dead, it would be legitimate to question the deity of Christ. If there was no resurrection Jesus was not divine, but a mere mortal. His miracles would be a hoax. His teachings would all be suspect. He would be nothing more than an influential historical figure like Socrates, Gandhi or Martin Luther King, Jr.

What shall we say in response to all this? His tomb is empty. His bones have never been found. There were eye witnesses to His resurrection. One early follower said, “This Jesus God raised

up, and of that we all are witnesses” (Acts 2:32). For centuries billions of these witnesses have been transformed by Him. This is the ultimate proof that Christ has risen. YES, JESUS IS ALIVE!

A prayer for you - Lord God, I pray for those who doubt the resurrection. Hear their objections and provide understanding. Bring us all to know the truth of Christ and His power like never before. This day we declare our belief in the risen Savior and Lord of all. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Clint Decker is President of Great Awakenings. Please share your comment at cdeckergreatawakenings.org and follow his blog at clintdecker.blogspot.com. Join Clint on a journey to Israel in March 2025. Go to greatawakenings.org for information.



Jesus said to her,
"I am the resurrection and the life.
He who believes in me will live,
even though he dies;
and whoever lives and believes in
me will never die."
John 11:25

He is risen!


**Easter Blessings from
Highland Baptist Church**
1301 N. Banks - Pampa
Sunday Worship Service 10:30 AM

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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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.

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."

Groom Services at the Cross

All are invited to join us to reflect on Passion and Death of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Good Friday – April 18, 2025

Location: "The Cross" in Groom, Texas, I-40 Exit 112

Time: 1:00 to 3:00 PM

1:00-Scriptural Rosary

Jim Lummus of Pampa

2:00-Stations of the Cross

Rev. Raj of Groom

Assisted by Mary Lane of Pampa

3:00-Prayers of Divine Mercy

Kay Britten of Groom

Easter Sunrise Service at the Cross - April 20, 2025

Location: Groom, Texas, Exit 112

Time: 7:00 AM

Reverend Dr. Jerry Lane of White Deer

Come Celebrate Our Risen Lord Refreshments and Fellowship



Happy Easter

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"HE IS RISEN"
Matthew 28:6

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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**



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.



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Explaining The Meaning Of Easter To Children

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. Explain 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 children. 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.



The Easter Stone

By Van Yandell
Matthew 28: 5-6 “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.”

A part of the message included experiences of Christians exemplifying that spiritual connection. That evening, a young person asked me before the service, “What was the most powerful spiritual experience you ever had?” Without having to give the question a second thought, I replied, “In Jerusalem, in the tomb of Jesus.” The year was 1994. Margie and I celebrated our 25th anniversary with a trip to Israel. That has now been 25 years ago. I can clearly remember, and occa-

sionally relive that experience. I easily recall a very special, unique feeling. It was akin to a gentle electrical shock going through me. I often wondered if it was a spiritual experience or my overactive imagine running wild. I am now convinced, it was indeed, spiritual. Few experiences in my life have lasted with such a degree of realism as that was. The tomb is in a stone quarry. It is the pit in which the stones were cut for the building of the Jerusalem (King Sol-

STONE cont. on page 12

Easter Sunday Of Holy Week Is All About Jesus



SUBMITTED BY PAUL BEAM, PASTOR OF CALVARY PAMPA

With all the pain, sorrow, and darkness of Friday, Sunday began quietly and calmly. Some of the women gathered together early in the morning to go to the tomb and anoint the body of Jesus with perfumes and spices. In all the hurry on Friday, there hadn’t been enough time to properly prepare the body for burial with the Sabbath approaching. As the women headed to the tomb, questions must have been filling their heads: Who will move the stone? Will the guards allow the women to see the body? What will the smell be like? As the women entered the area where the garden tomb was, the women are surprised as the guards are gone and the stone is rolled, and an angel in their place. Fear and confusion filled them: “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.” (Matthew 28:5-7 ESV) As the women peered into the empty tomb, they found it just as the angel had said. Then they left to reveal what the angel had said to them to the disciples. The resurrection narrative preaches such an incredible truth that you can easily miss if you don’t understand the details. If someone just invented this story about Jesus’ resurrection in order to make it convincing to a Jewish audience, they did a poor job.

The fact that the women were the first eye witnesses to the resurrected Jesus is unheard of. The testimony of a woman was not allowed in Jewish cases of law. It was considered untrustworthy. If you were fabricating a story to astound the people of an empty tomb and a missing body, you would not have told the story this way. Another thing that is often overlooked are the missing Roman guards. These men were charged with the task of guarding the tomb, yet in the morning, they are no where to be found. This is not the character of hardened fighting soldiers. The Romans were the elite fighting force of the day. They are not a bunch of farmers or merchants who could fit into some armor. They were trained killers! Roman soldiers lives were at stake when they performed their duties. If they fell asleep on the job or abandoned their post, they would often be executed. Matthew’s Gospel gives us some clarity on what happened to these hardened soldiers: 12 And when they had assembled with the elders and taken counsel, they gave a sufficient sum of money to the soldiers 13 and said, “Tell people, ‘His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.’ 14 And if this comes to the governor’s ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.” 15 So they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story has been spread among the Jews to this day. (Matthew 28:12-15 ESV) They were asleep while the disciples stole the body? Really? I guess that massive bolder in front of the tomb didn’t

make any noise while it was rolled away. The last is the motive of the disciples. What motive would they have for stealing the body of Jesus and pretending as if He was risen? Some say that they did it for financial gain. How likely is that? What kind of wealth would they gain pretending His was alive when His dead body was just hidden? If that’s the case, then how did it work out for them? All of them, save possibly John, died tragically at the hands of those who sought to destroy them. They were beheaded, crucified, beaten, and ridiculed. If Jesus’ resurrection was some type of joke or prank, wouldn’t they have recanted before they were put to death? But history teaches us that these men went to the grave believing and preaching that Jesus was truly the resurrected Son of God! All of these facts that Scripture records are simply too strong not to be true! Besides, in nearly 2,000 years of Christian history, no one has been able to prove that the resurrection of Jesus didn’t happen! As much hatred as there has always been against Christianity, someone would have been able to produce convincing truths against Jesus if it wasn’t true. So, what about you? Do you find these truths convincing or are you seeking more proof? There is more out there; more proof that leads to the conclusion that Jesus is the living God! But don’t just take my word for it, seek Him for yourself. “You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.” (Jeremiah 29:13 ESV)

Listen Up...

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

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Stone

Continued From Page 11

omon’s) temple (1 Kings 6) about 3,000 years ago. The body of Jesus was placed in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea (Matthew 27: 57). Joseph believed that Jesus was the Savior so long predicted in the scriptures. I well remember being in the tomb. The chamber is hand cut in the solid limestone rock and was much smaller than I anticipated. My notion was a cave-like cavern as in the old movies and the stone a large boulder. Actually though, the stone was a large disc. A trough or channel was cut along the base of the stone wall for the stone to be rolled into place. Inside the tomb is a stone shelf on which the body of Jesus was placed. When I placed my hands on the solid limestone wall, the feeling I had was, indeed, supernatural. We also visited the Garden of Gethsemane. Outside the garden wall is an outcropping of limestone. One raised area of stone is believed to be where Jesus prayed the night before the crucifixion (Matthew 26: 36-46). Many have reported experiencing healing when praying on that stone. It was a fantastic experience to pray there but I did not experience the supernatural connection I had felt in the tomb. The empty tomb symbolizes the true meaning of Christianity as much or more than anything other than the existence

of Jesus Himself. That empty tomb is a promise of the resurrection. Without the resurrection, Christianity is no more than any other club based on a common interest. The resurrection separates us from the carnal world. It draws the line between the physical world and eternity. The massive stone rolled over the entrance was moved by a supernatural power. The stone has been estimated to have weighed between one and two tons. No single man could have moved it. An angel (Matthew 28: 2) moved the stone, but it actually wasn’t necessary to move it at all. The resurrected Jesus could have come through the stone wall. The reason the stone was moved was to prove to the world, He was no longer there. Jesus had supernatural powers before the crucifixion. He walked on water, healed the sick and raised the dead. Is it possible His powers were even greater after the resurrection? In the story in John 20 of doubting Thomas, it is documented, “Jesus appeared to the disciples,” in a room without the door being opened. John 20:26 specifically states, “the doors were locked.” Suddenly Jesus appeared and stood among them. Then, in verse 28, after seeing Him, Thomas said, “My Lord and my God.” I just now turned to John 20: 28. When I read “My Lord and my God,” I trembled and tears came in my eyes. The thought of our resurrected Savior and the empty tomb will con-

tinue to overwhelm me until I meet Him face to face. The reality of Lord Jesus and the tomb exemplify a supernatural state/status of which there is no comparison. To consider the horror our Jesus endured on the cross just three days prior to His resurrection, gives us a hope unequalled. I outlined an Easter sermon a few years ago detailing the process of His crucifixion. He was beaten with a whip having nine strips of leather attached, with sharp objects tied to those strips. The whip master slung the whip with such intensity, those sharp objects embedded into His flesh. Then, they were ripped out with great force to cause extensive blood loss. Many victims of the scourging died of shock or blood loss before the cross. Our Jesus then had large nails driven into his hands and feet and a spear forced into His side. Yet, three days later He resurrected, perfect and alive; our Savior that would redeem us and give us eternal life. We love and worship a living Savior Christ Jesus. He’s Alive! He’s Alive! He’s Alive! The empty tomb and the stone rolled away proves, He is alive! I love the song “What A Day.” What a day that will be, When my Jesus I shall see, When I look upon His face, The One who saved me by His grace. When He takes me by the hand and leads me to the Promised Land, What a day, glorious day that will be.”

Salvation Is A Free Gift

By IAN COATE

A gift is usually something ‘paid for’ by another and given free of charge – no strings attached. We do not earn or deserve a gift, otherwise it would be a payment or a reward. However, when a gift is given, it only becomes ours when we freely accept it. God gave us the greatest of all gifts. He humbled Himself and became a man (Jesus Christ) and willingly went to the cross to pay the penalty for the sins of the world so anyone who chooses may have everlasting life instead of judgement. All that is left to receive everlasting-life is for us to simply accept it as a gift - by faith. We must understand that salvation is not a reward or a payment, (... it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. Eph. 2:8-9). If we think we earned or deserved it,



Does a gift only become ours when we accept it?

then we have not received it - everlasting life is a gift paid for by another (Christ). All we have to do is simply ‘believe’ the gift is ours and it becomes ours – forever. Furthermore, God does not take back His gifts. Once in our possession, it always remains in our possession - for eternity. We did nothing to gain the gift - we can do nothing to lose it. No one can steal it from us and we can’t return it to God. John 3:16 states, ‘God so loved the world that He gave His uniquely born Son (Jesus Christ)

that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.’ Don’t be one who eternally regrets declining the greatest gift ever given, when by accepting it is as easy as ‘believing’ that it belongs to us. As it is freely given - it must be freely received. Jesus said, as recorded in John 6:40: “And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

The Core Of Christianity Is EMPTY

By MIKE SUBLETT

Hi-Land Christian Church

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 accompanied 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 EMPTY 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.



May you have a meaningful Easter!



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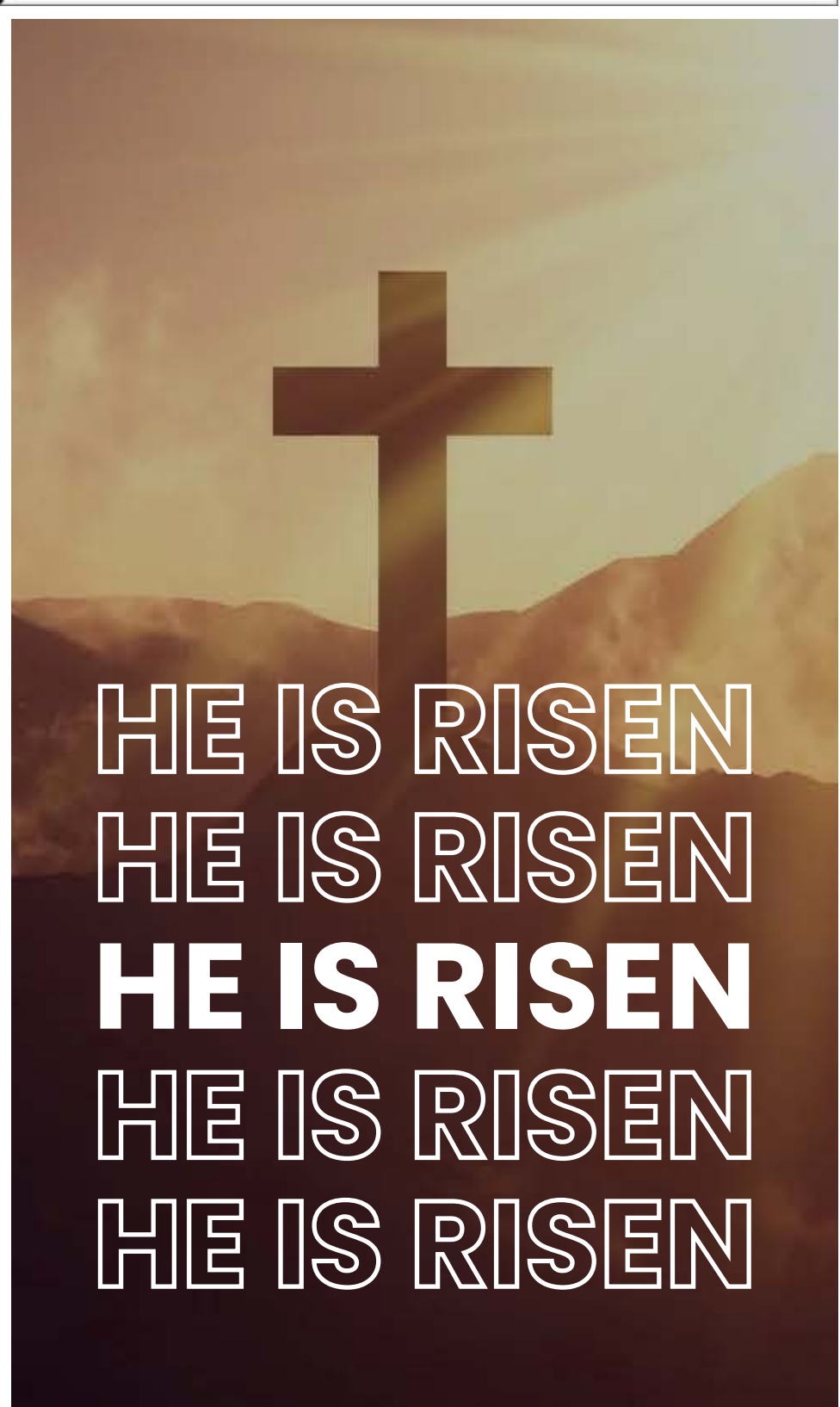
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HAPPY EASTER

Easter reminds us of
God's never-ending
love. May His grace
shine upon you today
and always



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HE IS RISEN
HE IS RISEN
HE IS RISEN



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EASTER TIDINGS WORD SEARCH

N	K	T	F	O	M	L	G	W	P	B	J	D	F	G	C	K	P	F	T
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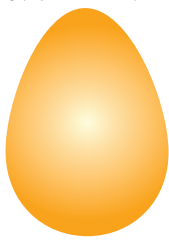
Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

- BASKET
- BONNET
- CELEBRATION
- CHOCOLATE
- CHURCH
- CROSS
- DINNER
- EGGS
- FAITH
- FAMILY
- HIDE
- HOLIDAY
- HOT CROSS BUNS
- JELLY BEANS
- JESUS
- LAMB
- LILY
- MARSHMALLOW
- MIRACLE
- PASTEL
- RABBIT
- REJOICE
- RESURRECTION
- SPRINGTIME



THE TALLEST CHOCOLATE EASTER EGG EVER MADE WAS PRODUCED IN ITALY IN 2011. IT WAS TALLER THAN A GIRAFFE AND HEAVIER THAN AN ELEPHANT.



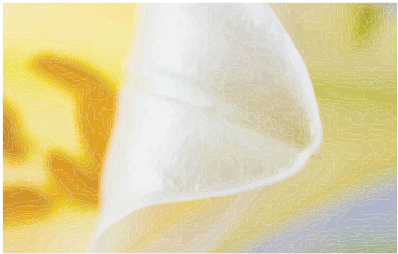
WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to Easter.

N S E R I

--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Risen



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: EASTER LILY

PANHANDLE PLAINS REALTY



Happy Easter

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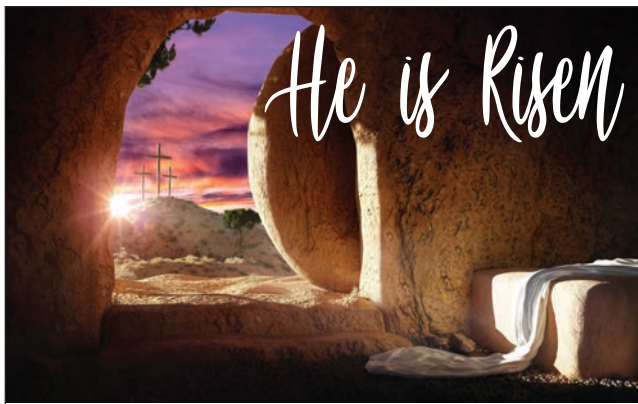
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A Dessert That's Fitting For Guests Or The Easter Bunny



Holy Week Schedule

Holy Thursday April 17th,

7:30 p.m. Bilingual Mass of the Lord's Supper
Adoration until midnight

Good Friday April 18th

1:30 p.m. Live Bilingual
Stations of the Cross church grounds
3 pm Divine Mercy Novena—church

Celebration of the Lord's Passion
6:00 p.m. English • 8:00 p.m. Spanish

Holy Saturday April 19 th

3:00 p.m. Divine Mercy Novena –church
9:00 p.m. Bilingual Easter Vigil Mass

Easter Sunday April 20th

9:30 a.m. English Mass • Noon Spanish

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church
810 W. 23rd Ave • 806-665-8933
stvincentpampa.org



The Easter Bunny and the vividly colored eggs and treats he leaves behind are one of the time-honored traditions of this spring holiday. However, many other customs also are enjoyed during Easter celebrations, including a holiday table resplendent with delicious foods.

After the main meal is cleared, family and guests can relish in any number of sweet offerings. From pastries to coconut-covered cakes

cut in the shapes of bunnies, there's often no shortage of tasty options. Carrot cake is a traditional dessert to serve after Easter dinner. Since it has shredded carrots mixed into the batter, it may be challenging to keep the Easter Bunny away, especially after whipping up this recipe for "Carrot Cake with Cream Cheese Frosting" courtesy of the Food Network Kitchen.

Ingredients

Cake:
Cooking spray
2 cups pecan halves
2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1 tablespoon plus 1 teaspoon baking powder
1 1/2 teaspoons cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg
Kosher salt
4 large eggs
2 cups granulated sugar
1 cup vegetable oil
3 cups finely grated carrots (about 1 pound carrots)
2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
Frosting:
1 pound cream cheese, cut into cubes, at room temperature
2 1/2 cups confectioners' sugar
2 sticks unsalted butter, cut into cubes, at room temperature
1 teaspoon pure va-

nilla extract
Kosher salt
1/4 cup heavy cream, cold

Directions

1. For the cake: Preheat the oven to 350 F. Line two 9-inch round cake pans with parchment and lightly coat with cooking spray.

2. Spread the pecans on a rimmed baking sheet and toast until light brown and fragrant, 7 minutes. Set aside 12 pecan halves to decorate the remaining pecans. Set aside 1 cup of the chopped pecans to use in the batter; reserve the rest for decorating the finished cake.

3. Whisk together the flour, baking powder, cinnamon, nutmeg, and 1 teaspoon salt in a medium bowl.

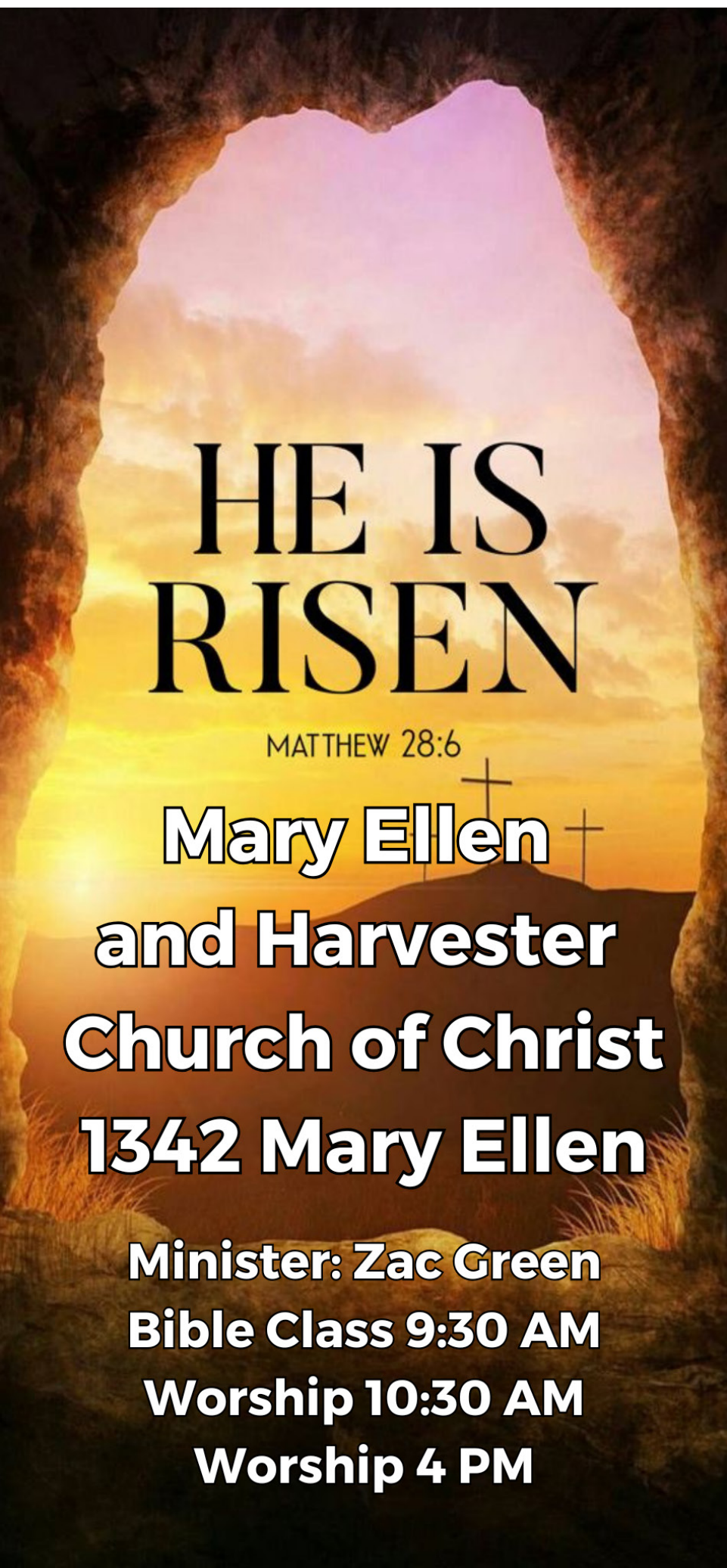
4. Whisk together the eggs and granulated sugar in a large bowl until smooth, about 1 minute. Whisk in the oil until well combined. Add the grated carrots, vanilla and 1 cup chopped pecans, and mix well. Add the dry ingredients, and stir until just combined. Divide the batter evenly between the prepared pans.

5. Bake until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean and the cakes are nicely browned, about 30 minutes. Let cool on a cool-

ing rack for 10 minutes. Loosen the edges with a spatula, turn the cakes out and let cool completely, right-side up, on the cooling rack, about 2 hours. Remove the parchment before frosting.

6. For the frosting: Beat the cream cheese and butter in the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with a paddle attachment, scraping down the side as necessary, until smooth, about 2 minutes. Add the confectioners' sugar, vanilla and 1/2 teaspoon salt; gradually increase the mixer speed to medium-high, and beat until the sugar is incorporated and the frosting is fluffy and smooth, about 3 minutes. With the mixer on medium-high, add the cream a few drops at a time until it's all incorporated. Continue beating for 1 more minute until the frosting is slightly lighter in color and creamy.

7. To assemble: Place one of the cake layers on a serving plate, and spread 1 cup of the frosting over the top. Top with the other layer, and use the remaining frosting to frost the top and sides of the cake. Arrange the 12 whole pecans on top of the cake like the numbers on a clock face, and sprinkle the remaining chopped pecans in between. Serves 10



First Presbyterian Church



Please join us as we worship and serve as witnesses of God's love in the world.

You can learn more about First Presbyterian Church on our website at pampapresbyterian.com or follow us on Facebook @ **First Presbyterian Church Pampa**

- Growing in the Gospel
- Expanding Youth and Christian Education programs and activities
- Committed to learning and sharing God's love

Service Schedules

Sunday Mornings

10:00 a.m. Classes for Youth
10:45 a.m. Worship

Wednesdays - September thru May

5:30 p.m. WOW - classes for kids
6:30 p.m. Meal for all
7:00 p.m. Choir practice



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806-665-1031

Easter Services and Egg Hunts

Calvary Baptist-900 E. 23rd Ave.

- *Easter-Early Service-8:00 AM, Church-wide Breakfast-8:45 AM,*
- *Life Groups-9:30 AM, Easter Worship-10:45 AM*

St. Paul United Methodist-511 N. Hobart

- *Good Friday-7:00 PM • Easter-10:30 AM*

Redeemer Pampa-225 N. Cuyler

- *Good Friday-6:00 PM • Easter-9:15 AM, 11:00 AM*

First Methodist Church-201 E. Foster

- *Easter-10:30 AM*

St. Matthew's Episcopal-727 W. Browning

- *Good Friday-Noon, Evening of Music and Meditation-6:00 PM*
- *Easter-Brunch and Easter Egg Hunt-9:15 AM*

Hobart Baptist Church-1100 Crawford

- *Easter-9:45 AM, Worship-11:00 AM*

Central Baptist Church-513 E. Francis

- *Palm Sunday, April 13*

Faith Tabernacle-610 Naida

- *Palm Sunday, April 13-Kids Takeover, 11 AM*

Cornerstone Baptist Church-2410 W. 23rd

- *Good Friday-6:30 PM Communion Service*
- *Easter-Sunday School-9:45 AM, Worship Service-10:45 AM*

Trinity Fellowship-2225 N. Hobart

- *Good Friday-7:00 PM • Easter-9:00 & 11:15 AM*

Briarwood Church-1800 W. Harvester

- *Good Friday-6:30 PM*
- *Easter Sunrise-8:00 AM, 12 miles north of PRMC on HWY 70*
- *Easter Service-9:00 & 10:30 AM*

St. Vincent de Paul-810 W. 23rd

- *Good Friday-1:30 PM Bilingual Stations of the Cross, 3:00 PM Divine Mercy Novena, 6:00 PM Celebration of the Lord's Passion*
- *Easter-9:30 AM English Mass, Noon Spanish Mass*

Trinity Fellowship Resurrection Run and Rally

Saturday, April 12th, 2225 N. Hobart

1K and 5K walk/run at 10 AM

Food trucks, rock wall, yard games, bounce houses, petting zoo, face painting, and egg hunt between 1 and 3 PM

First Baptist Pampa Egg-Stravaganza

Sunday, April 13th, 5:00 PM,

Lamar Elementary

Egg hunt, free food, and prizes, free for the whole community

ATS Tree Service Easter Egg Hunt and Concert

Saturday, April 19th, 11:00 AM, Central Park

10,000 Easter eggs, live music & local talent, golden egg prizes cash prizes, face painting, train rides, food trucks

Pampa Regional Medical Center Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 19th-Pictures with Easter Bunny at 10:15 AM,

Easter Egg Hunt on front lawn at 10:30 AM

Lefors Volunteer Fire Department and First Baptist Church Lefors Easter Egg Hunt and Lunch

Saturday, April 19th, 12:00 PM, Lefors Fire Department-107

N. Main, Lefors, TX

Egg hunt for ages 0-5th grade, door prizes

White Deer Fire Department Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 19th, 12:00 PM, White Deer City Park-corner of 5th and Doucette

FIRST METHODIST



**EASTER WORSHIP:
10:30 AM OR TUNE TO
KOMX 100.3 FM TO
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6:00 pm.

9:15 am.

and

11:00 am.

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