

# Why is Easter Sunday such an important Christian holiday?

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

Each Easter, Christians celebrate the miracle of Christ's defeat over death through his resurrection and ascension to his father's side in heaven. However awe-inspiring, Easter is much more than this event and its retelling. Easter actually is the core of the Christian religion as it has come to be known, including inspiring the rituals and teachings that have been shared for

nearly 2,000 years. Without the events that unfolded during Holy Week, the Christian faith would not exist as it was prophesied. Christ's selfless sacrifice on the cross for others' sins, as well as his miraculous resurrection, are the anchors upon which all of Christianity has been built.

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

be a failed religious leader... he would then remain purely human, and his authority would extend only so far as his message is of interest to us."

According to Christianity.com, Easter is part of the redemptive plan of mankind.

It is worthy of celebration because it proved to people that Jesus is the Son of God. This gives Christians confidence that there is life after death, and they will have the same power working in them that raised Jesus from the dead.

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

celebration of Holy Communion, which remains a vital component of the faith and religious services.


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

## How did Easter get its name?

Christians and even many non-Christians likely know that Easter is the Christian celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Less widely known may be the origins of the name of this significant holiday. Historians are not certain about the precise origins of the name "Easter." Some believe the name can be traced to the English monk Bede, often referred to as "St. Bede the Venerable" or "The Venerable Bede." According to History.com, in his most famous work, Ecclesiastical History of the English People, Bede asserts that the English word "Easter" can be traced to

"Eostre" or "Eostrae," which is the pagan Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring. Many historians past and present echo this sentiment and believe Eostre is the namesake of Easter. However, others believe "Easter" comes from the Latin phrase "in albis," which is plural for "alba" (dawn). That phrase became "eostarum" in Old High German, a language that historians have connected to Old English. Though which camp is correct may never be resolved, there's no denying that the word "Easter" represents the same spirit of rebirth that Christians celebrate each spring.

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**Family:** Parents William and Christel Buesing; brother Zach and sister Taylor

**Favorite subjects:** Math and Science

**Proudest high school moment:** "Pushing myself academically to be the best student I can be."

**Best thing about being part of the Villa Grove community:** "Everyone is so close and so friendly."

### VILLA GROVE STATE BANK SENIOR OF THE MONTH

## Emma Paige Buesing


Emma Buesing has been selected as the Villa Grove Senior of the Month for March 2023. Congratulations, Emma!

As a Villa Grove student, Emma has been involved in a wide variety of sports, service, and leadership activities. She has been captain of the cross country, basketball, and track teams and has served as vice-president of Student Council and an FFA officer. In addition, she has been a member of the Scholastic Bowl team, National Honor Society, Math team, SWAT, and ACES.

Outside of school, Emma enjoys reading, running, watching TV, and spending time with family and friends. She plans to attend either Southern Illinois University or Embry-Riddle to earn a bachelor's degree in aeronautical science to become a commercial pilot.

Villa Grove State Bank congratulates Emma on her selection as the March Senior of the Month and wishes her continued success!

The Senior of the Month and Senior of the Year program honors Villa Grove High School students who have outstanding records in academics, leadership, and extracurricular activities. School personnel select the recipients, and Villa Grove State Bank presents each monthly winner with \$100. The Senior of the Year receives a \$1,000 scholarship.



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## Missing Children Report

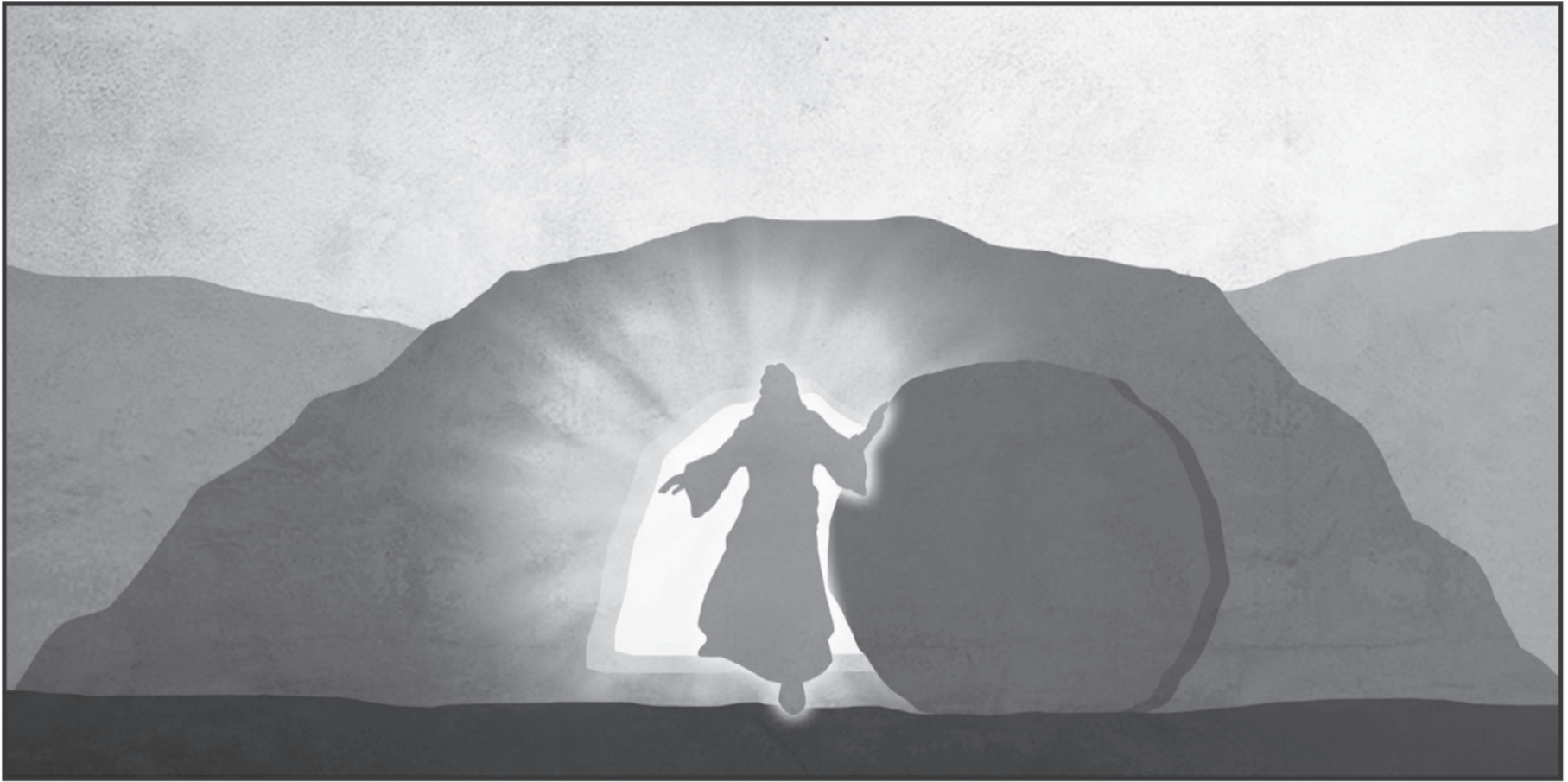
**Last Seen:** Long, Long, Long Ago

**Description:** Loving and good but lost their way.

Your father loves you and misses you and wants you to come home.

He will forgive you for everything you've ever done if you come back to him.

Your Family also misses you and loves you and wants you to come back.



## Come Back to The Church

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