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Newsletter

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The 10 Most Famous Symbols of Easter

<https://symbolsage.com/most-famous-symbols-of-easter/>

Easter, together with Christmas, is one of the two biggest Christian holidays for people of almost every Christian denomination.

Just like Christmas, however, Easter's origins are closely intertwined with multiple other pagan traditions and cultures and not just the Christian faith.

This has made both holidays incredibly colorful, enjoyable to celebrate, and inclusive. It also makes the meaning behind some of Easter's symbols quite convoluted and confusing, however, as

well as fun to explore.

Let's go over the 10 most famous symbols of Easter below and see what each of them represents.

Easter Symbols

There are many symbols of Easter, especially if we go through each of the thousands of Christian denominations across the globe. While it's not possible to go through them all, we've listed 10 symbols that are popular in almost every corner of the Christian world.

1. The Cross

The Cross (<https://symbolsage.com/latin-cross/>) is easily one of the most popular and recognizable Christian symbols in the world. It came to be associated with Easter as Jesus Christ was crucified on the hill of Golgotha on Good Friday.

Three days later, on Easter itself, Jesus rose from his tomb having fulfilled his promise to humanity and redeemed their sins.

For that reason, the simple cross made out

Please see *Food* Page 2

From Page 1

of a dogwood tree is the most significant symbol of Easter.

2. The Empty Tomb

As with the Cross, Jesus' empty tomb is a Christian symbol that represents Easter in the most straightforward fashion.

When Jesus rose from the dead, he left the empty tomb behind him on the day of Easter and proved his resurrection to the world.

While the empty tomb isn't used as a symbol of Christianity as often as the Cross, it's arguably even more directly linked to the holiday of Easter.

3. Easter Eggs

Easter eggs are the most popular out of all non-Christian Easter pagan traditions. They aren't directly linked to Christianity or Jesus' resurrection but were a part of the north and east European pagan springtime holiday.

This is in honor of the goddess Eostre. Eggs, a symbol of birth and fertility, were naturally associated with springtime.

Once Christianity spread through Europe and the holiday of Passover coincided with Eostre's celebrations, the two traditions simply merged. However, Eostre's colorful eggs did fit well with Passover and this new Easter, as eating eggs is forbidden during the 40-day Lent period before Easter.

People could continue the tradition of coloring hard-boiled eggs during Lent and then celebrate its end and Jesus' Resurrection with delicious eggs and other special meals.

4. The Paschal Candle

Every Easter Vigil, the tradition dictates that a Paschal candle is lit from a new fire in a church, the evening before Easter Sunday.

It's a standard beeswax candle but it should be marked with the year, a cross, and the Alpha and Omega letters for the beginning and the end.

The Paschal candle is then used to light the candles of all other members in the congregation, symbolizing the spreading of Jesus' light.

5. The Easter Lamb

As the Bible calls Jesus "the Lamb of God", it's no surprise that the Easter lamb is a major sign of Easter. This Paschal Lamb symbolizes Jesus Christ himself and his sacrifice for all humanity on Easter.

Many Easter traditions from Eastern Europe to the US celebrate Easter with a lamb-based dish on Easter Sunday evening, after the end of Lent.

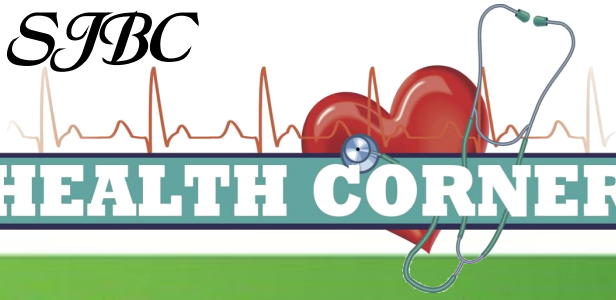
6. The Easter Bunny

The Easter bunny is a pagan tradition that not all Christian denominations follow, but it's a big part of the Easter tradition in most of the Western Christian world, especially the US.

There are various theories about the exact origin of this traditional symbol. Some say it was brought to America by German immigrants in the 1700s while others say it's an ancient Celtic tradition.

Either way, the idea behind the Easter bunny seems clear – it's a traditional symbol of fertility and spring, just like the Easter eggs. That's why the two are so often portrayed together even though there's no mention of them in the Bible.

SJBC

**HEALTH CORNER**

STRESS

Awareness Month

April is designated as National Stress Awareness Month to shed light on the effects of stress. Effective stress management is vital for maintaining a healthy lifestyle, as it enhances both mental and physical well-being.

STRESS CAN CAUSE THE FOLLOWING

- Feelings of fear, anger, sadness, worry, numbness, or frustration.
- Changes in appetite, energy, desires, and interests.
- Trouble concentrating and making decisions.
- Nightmares or problems sleeping.
- Physical reactions, such as headaches, body pains, etc.

HEALTHY WAYS TO COPE WITH STRESS

- Do something positive.
- Take care of your body.
- Get enough sleep.
- Limit alcohol intake.
- Make time to unwind.
- Connect with others.



Help Needed!!!

At the 2025 Annual Church Meeting, a couple of vacancies were announced during the Permanent Organization Committee report:

- + Church Clerk
- + House Committee Chair

If you are interested in assisting SJBC by filling these vacancies, please see *Mrs. Mary Ann Corpal-Clay*, Chair of the Permanent Organization Committee.

SJBC Search Committee Finalists

Teaching/Preaching and Interview Schedule

Dr. Deborah Day

March 29th

10:00 am - Sunday School

11:00 am - Sunday Service

April 4th

10:00 am - Church Interview

Dr. Rodney Echols

April 12th

10:00 am - Sunday School

11:00 am - Sunday Service

April 18th

10:00 am - Church Interview

Dr. Corey Johnson

April 25th

10:00 am - Church Interview

April 26th

10:00 am - Sunday School

11:00 am - Sunday Service

Member Spotlight

Women's Month 2026

Women's Day 2026 maybe in the History Books, here's a recap:

- ✦ *Sis. Marva Turner* and *Mrs. Chrystal Gray* were Chair and Co-Chair, respectfully.
- ✦ The guest speakers were Dr. Cozette Garrett, an ordained Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) minister and author, for the 11:00 am service and at the 3:00 pm program, Dr. Taura Jefferson, a Bellevue Baptist Church minister. Yes, the Women of *St. John* are so special, they were treated to two (2) speakers during 2 different services!!!
- ✦ Activities:
 - ✦ African Attire Sunday
 - ✦ Annual Saladfest/Meet & Greet the Speakers
 - ✦ Annual Women's Day with two (2) services, dinner, and reception
 - ✦ 5th Sunday T-shirt day and Cookout
- ✦ As successful as Women's Month was, the 2026 Financial Goal has not been met. *Finance Chair Alisa Y. G. Petty* and the Finance Committee need your assistance and will be accepting contributions through December 31st, if needed!!! Remember the sooner, the better to out shine *SJBC Men*. So if you have yet to contribute, please do so ASAP and if you have, please consider contributing more!!!



From Page 2 *FOOD*

7. The Easter Bread

Easter bread comes in dozens of different shapes, types, and sizes – some sweet, some salty, some large, and others – bite-sized.

Hot cross buns, soft pretzels, Eastern European kozunak bread, and various other types of bread are all very much associated with the different Easter traditions.

Wherever you are in the Christian world, eating Easter eggs with hot milk, and sweet Easter bread is most likely the norm for Easter Sunday morning.

8. The Easter Basket

All the delicious food-based traditions such as Easter eggs, baby chicks, sweet Easter bread, and various other Easter breakfast foods are commonly presented in an Easter basket.

When they're not, the basket is usually used to hold a set of Easter eggs placed in the center of the Easter table.

9. Baby Chicks

A less common symbol than the Easter bunny but still quite recognizable, baby chicks are often portrayed together with Easter eggs.

Like Easter bunnies and eggs, baby chicks also symbolize springtime youth and fertility. Baby chicks are a more common Easter symbol than the Easter bunny among Christians, as well as in Eastern Orthodox churches.

10. The Easter Lily

The Easter lily is both a pagan and Christian symbol, closely connected to Easter from either side. In most pagan traditions, the gorgeous white lily is as much a symbol of the springtime fertility of the land as are bunny rabbits,

baby chicks, and Easter eggs.

In the pre-Christian Roman tradition, the white lily was also associated with Hera, the Queen of Heaven. According to her myth, the white lily came from Hera's milk.

Likely from there, the lily later became associated with Mary in the Roman Church. Lilies were also often mentioned in the Bible, although the wild Middle Eastern lilies at the time weren't exactly the same flowers as the modern *Lilium Longiflorum* white lilies we often use on Easter.

In Brief

As mentioned earlier, Easter is represented by many different symbols, some more commonly known than others and the symbols on this list are just a few of them.

While some of them started out as completely different symbols that had nothing to do with Easter, they are now extremely popular and continue to be used around the world to represent the holiday and the resurrection of Jesus Christ.



Easter vs Resurrection Sunday

The Bible does not use either the term "Easter" or "Resurrection Sunday" in its original languages. This fact often surprises many Christians who might assume these familiar terms have direct biblical origins.

In the original Greek New Testament, there is no specific name given to the day of Christ's resurrection. The Gospel accounts simply describe the event as occurring "on the first day of the week" (*Matthew 28:1, Mark 16:2, Luke*

Important Dates



Tennessee Secretary of State
Secretary of State Tre Hargett

Division of Elections
Mark Goins, Coordinator of Elections

Key Dates for the 2026 Election Cycle

Tuesday, May 5, 2026 - State and County Primary Election

Primary elections may be held for **state judicial offices and applicable county offices**, subject to the call by political parties.

Deadline to Call Primary	Monday, August 25, 2025
Deadline to Rescind Call for Primary	Friday, November 21, 2025
First Day to Pick Up Petitions	Monday, December 22, 2025
Qualifying Deadline*	Thursday, February 19, 2026, 12:00 Noon
<i>* This qualifying deadline applies to primary candidates, candidates nominated by caucus, and independent candidates for the offices on the May primary ballot.</i>	
Withdrawal Deadline	Thursday, February 26, 2026, 12:00 Noon
Voter Registration Deadline	Monday, April 6, 2026
Early Voting Period	Wednesday, April 15 – Thursday, April 30, 2026
Absentee Ballot Request Deadline	Saturday, April 25, 2026

Thursday, August 6, 2026 - Primary and General Election

Primary elections will be held for **Governor, U.S. Senate, U.S. House, Tennessee Senate (odd-numbered districts), Tennessee House, and Republican and Democratic State Executive Committees**. General elections will be held for **vacant state judicial offices and applicable county offices**.

First Day to Pick Up Petitions	Friday, January 9, 2026
Qualifying Deadline*	Tuesday, March 10, 2026, 12:00 Noon
<i>* This qualifying deadline applies to primary and independent candidates for the offices on the August primary ballot.</i>	
Withdrawal Deadline	Tuesday, March 17, 2026, 12:00 Noon
Voter Registration Deadline	Tuesday, July 7, 2026
Early Voting	Friday, July 17 – Saturday, August 1, 2026
Absentee Ballot Request Deadline	Monday, July 27, 2026

Tuesday, November 3, 2026 - State and Federal General Election

All candidates (including independents) for **Governor, U.S. Senate, U.S. House, Tennessee Senate (odd-numbered districts), and Tennessee House** must follow the qualifying dates for the August election. For **municipal elections** held with the November election, the qualifying dates below apply.

First Day to Pick Up Petitions	Monday, June 22, 2026
Qualifying Deadline	Thursday, August 20, 2026, 12:00 Noon
Withdrawal Deadline	Thursday, August 27, 2026, 12:00 Noon
Voter Registration Deadline	Monday, October 5, 2026
Early Voting	Wednesday, October 14 – Thursday, October 29, 2026
Absentee Ballot Request Deadline	Saturday, October 24, 2026

Voting and Elections

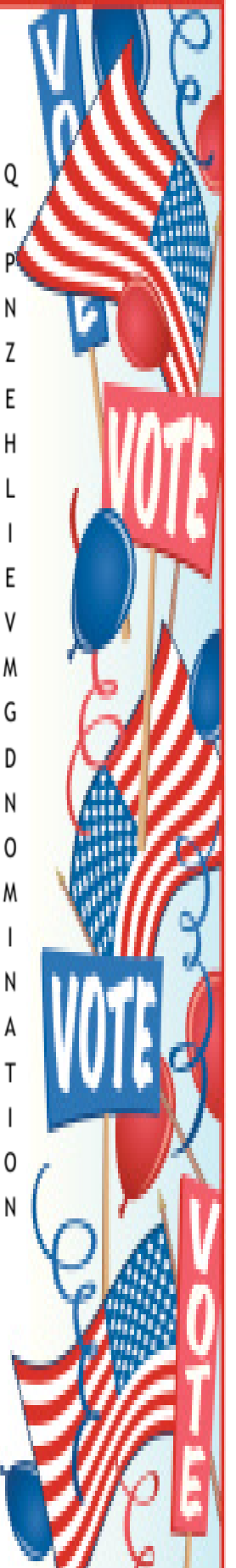
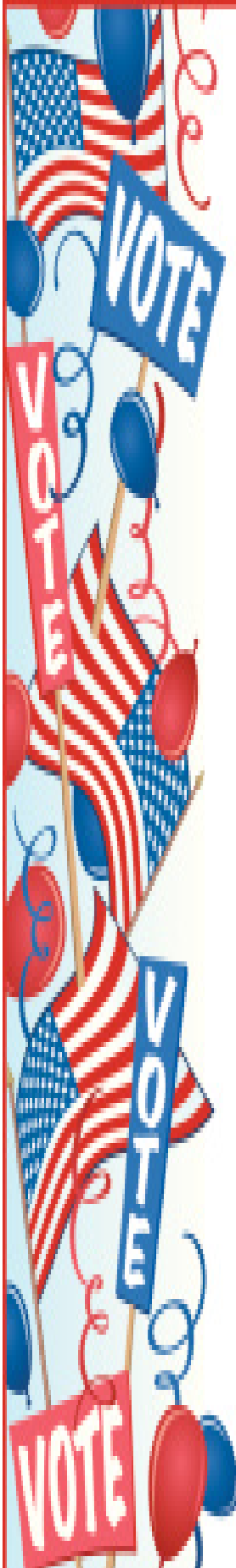
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 polling place
 advertising
 bipartisan
 soft money
 lobbyist
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absentee ballot
 unaffiliated
 popular vote
 canvassing
 plainfolk
 election
 leaders
 pac

interest group
 card stacking
 mudslinging
 nomination
 bandwagon
 townhall
 schools

electoral vote
 early voting
 name calling
 republican
 eighteen
 democrat
 citizen



From Page 6 *FOOD*

4:1, *John 20:1*). This temporal marker was major in the Jewish calendar context but did not constitute a formal name for the day. The early disciples recognized the powerful importance of this “first day,” but the texts do not indicate they immediately established a named annual celebration.

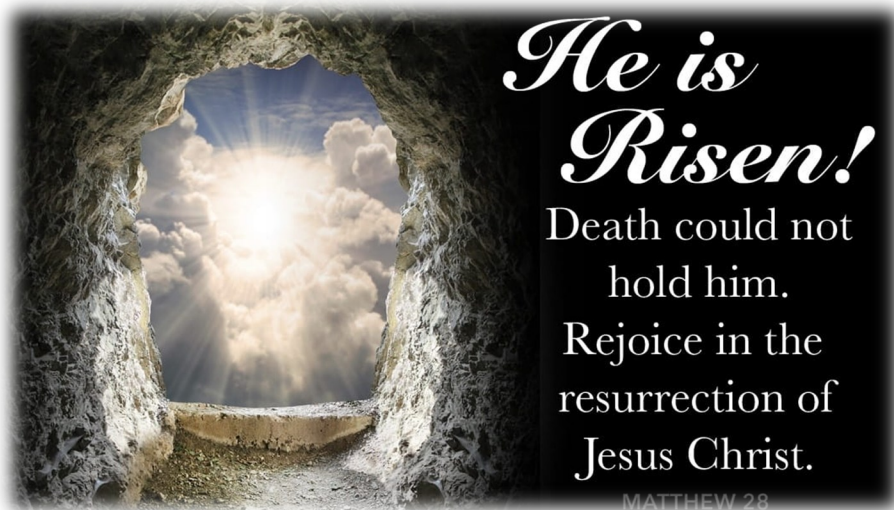
The only appearance of anything resembling “Easter” in English Bibles occurs in the King James Version’s translation of *Acts 12:4*, which uses “Easter” to translate the Greek word “pascha.” But this is widely recognized as a mistranslation, as “pascha” actually refers to the Jewish Passover festival. Modern translations correctly render this as “Passover,” not “Easter.”

The term “Easter” entered Christian vocabulary much later through complex linguistic and cultural developments. As Christianity spread throughout Europe, the celebration of Christ’s resurrection in some regions adopted terminology connected to pre-existing spring festivals. In Germanic languages, this produced terms like the English “Easter,” while Romance languages maintained derivatives of “pascha” (such as “Pascua” in Spanish or “Pâques” in French).

“Resurrection Sunday” is likewise absent from Scripture as a formal designation, though it describes accurately what the day commemorates. The resurrection itself is abundantly attested in Scripture and forms the cornerstone of apostolic preaching throughout the New Testament. Paul declares it “of first importance” in his gospel proclamation (*1 Corinthians 15:3-4*).

Early Christian communities began commemorating the resurrection annually, but the formalization of this celebration and its terminology developed gradually through church tradition rather than direct biblical mandate. By the second century, we find evidence of annual resurrection celebrations, though debates about proper dating continued for centuries.

This historical context helps us understand that although the resurrection event is central to Scripture, the terminology we use to designate its commemoration reflects historical development rather than biblical prescription. Christians can therefore use either term with freedom, while focusing on the essential truth both seek to honor: Christ is risen, transforming history and offering salvation to all who believe.



April 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p><i>Sunday Services</i> 5 William McNeal Phaedra Trace-Cantu </p>			1	2	 3	4
<p><i>Sunday Services</i> 12 <i>Sunday School 10 am</i> Finalist #2 - Rev. R Echols</p>	6	<p><i>Prayer Mtg/ Bible Study</i> 7</p>	8	9	10	<p><i>Deacons' Meeting</i> Official Board Mtg 11</p>
<p><i>Sunday Services</i> 19 <i>Sunday School 10 am</i></p>	13	<p><i>Prayer Mtg/ Bible Study</i> 14</p>	15	16	17	18
<p><i>Sunday Services</i> 26 <i>Sunday School 10 am</i> Finalist #3 - Rev. C. Johnson</p>	20	<p><i>Prayer Mtg/ Bible Study</i> 21</p>	 22 Gladys Amis	23	 24	25
	27	<p><i>Prayer Mtg/ Bible Study</i> 28</p>	29	30		<p><i>Finalist #2 - Rev. R Echols (interview)</i> 18</p> <p><i>Finalist #3 - Rev. C. Johnson (interview)</i> 25</p>

Apr 5 - Easter



Name: _____ Date: _____



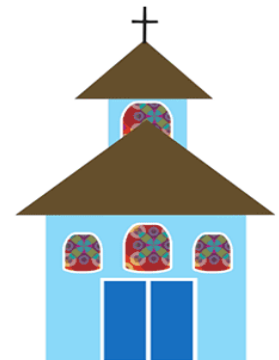
Easter Story

WORD SEARCH

DIRECTIONS: Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid. Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.

S	C	B	M	N	E	J	E	S	U	S	C	H	R	I	S	T
K	A	A	P	O	D	V	G	V	A	R	E	J	O	I	C	E
J	R	V	M	S	P	R	A	Y	E	R	W	C	B	V	F	S
Y	N	O	I	X	I	F	I	C	U	R	C	T	R	M	L	E
L	A	P	C	O	I	E	B	Q	O	X	B	B	N	O	O	L
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T	H	X	C	H	Y	N	T	N	H	R	S	M	N	A	O	X
N	C	N	C	A	M	I	E	O	C	T	F	Y	S	C	S	J
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- | | | |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| APOSTLES | JESUS CHRIST | PRAYER |
| BETRAYAL | JUDAS | REDEMPTION |
| CAVE | LAMB | REJOICE |
| CHURCH | LAST SUPPER | RESURRECTION |
| CROSS | LENT | RISEN |
| CROWN | MARY | SAVIOR |
| CRUCIFIXION | MIRACLE | SON |
| DISCIPLES | PASSOVER | THORNS |
| FAITH | PENANCE | TOMB |
| GOOD FRIDAY | PENTECOST | |



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