

Bold words: Jesus Christ, Christianity, Anglo-Saxon and Lent.

Underline words: Easter.

Italicize: Ash Wednesday, Lent, Holy Week, Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday

Highlight in red: Crucifixion, dead, killed.

Highlight in purple: Eggs.

Indent all 5 paragraphs.

12 Times New Roman

Double space

Easter is the holiest day of the year for Christians. It celebrates their belief in the resurrection, or the rising from the dead, of Jesus Christ. Jesus was the founder of the religion of Christianity. Easter is always observed on a Sunday in the spring, but its date varies. It can fall on any Sunday between March 22 and April 25.

The name Easter may come from Eostre, an Anglo-Saxon goddess. In ancient times, an annual spring festival was held in her honor.

In many churches Easter follows a season of prayer and fasting called Lent. This is observed in memory of the 40 days Jesus is said to have fasted, or gone without food, in the desert. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. This day gets its name from the practice of putting ashes on the foreheads of the faithful as a symbol of the season.

The week before Easter Sunday is known as Holy Week. During this week, Christians remember the events they believe took place at the time of Jesus' death. Palm Sunday recalls the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem shortly before his death. Holy Thursday marks the Last Supper of Jesus with his disciples, or followers. Good Friday remembers the crucifixion, when Jesus was killed by being nailed to a cross. Christians believe that Jesus was resurrected on the third day after his death. Easter is therefore a celebration of new life.

On Easter, Christians attend special church services. A number of popular folk customs are also associated with Easter. These have to do with rabbits and colored eggs, which are ancient symbols of new life. In some countries children color eggs and then the eggs are hidden for them to find. According to tradition the Easter Bunny also leaves eggs and candy for children on Easter morning.