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Easter Sunday, March 27, 2016

Mound City
NEWS



Special Section to the Mound City News
March 24, 2016



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Bake your own Communion bread

The Holy Eucharist is at the heart of Christian mass. The sharing of the Eucharist is reminiscent of the words and actions of Jesus Christ during the Last Supper on the eve of his crucifixion. Christ instructed his disciples to break bread and enjoy wine, which would represent his own body and blood, shed for all so sins would be forgiven. Centuries later, Christians still gather to share in the miracle and ultimate sacrifice that is the taking of bread and wine.

Communion bread varies depending on the parish and the sect of Christianity. In many cases, the Eucharist is unleavened bread, similar to a cracker or a matzo. Although, leavened bread has been known to be used at certain services. Communion recipients may be given individual wafers of bread or be asked to break

slivers from a communal piece. Wine can be poured into individual cups, but is most often sipped from a group chalice.

Roman Catholics do not believe that the bread and wine offered at mass is symbolic of Jesus Christ. They firmly believe that it turns into His very own body and blood during the transubstantiation.

Churches receive the Eucharistic bread and wine from church-approved sources to be used in their masses. However, celebrants who would like to create their own variations of unblessed Communion bread at home can explore a variety of recipes. The following is a simple bread recipe, which can also be used for Communion parties, Easter and other religious celebrations.



Communion Bread

- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 1/2 cup whole wheat flour
- 3/4 tablespoon baking soda
- 3 tablespoons shortening
- 3 tablespoons honey
- 3/4 cup water

Mix dry ingredients. Cut in shortening. Add honey, then water. Mix by hand. Knead for a bit. Divide and roll into 4 balls and flatten. Cut a shallow cross through the top. Bake for 10 minutes at 350° F on a cookie sheet. Allow to cool and enjoy.

Cracking egg myths in time for Easter

Easter eggs are a centerpiece of many family traditions come Easter Sunday. Easter eggs symbolize fertility and rebirth to some, but many people associate Easter eggs with youngsters scouring the yard in search of treasure.

Whether Easter eggs are associated with secular or religious beliefs, these colorful staples of Easter Sunday are an integral part of springtime holiday decor and celebrations. Certain misconceptions about Easter eggs have developed over time, and the following are some of the more common myths about Easter eggs that have made the rounds.

Myth: Easter eggs are safe to eat after your egg hunt is over.

Fact: Hard-boiled eggs generally remain safe to eat at room temperature for about two hours. If the temperature outside or indoors is very warm, the eggs should be eaten within one hour. People risk food-borne illnesses if they consume Easter eggs that have been left out for several hours or overnight. It is better to dispose of colored eggs after the annual egg hunt or at least keep hard-boiled eggs refrigerated until the hunt begins.

Myth: It is unsafe to eat all dyed Easter eggs.

Fact: Whether dyed eggs are safe or not depends on the type of dye used. Many kits use vegetable-based dyes that are food-safe. These same pigments are used in traditional food coloring. Even if the dye has penetrated beneath the shell, it should still be safe



for consumption. Kits for blown-out eggs may use dyes that are not food-safe. Also, people who are allergic to certain food dyes might want to avoid eating dyed eggs.

Myth: Pastel-colored eggs have long-rooted religious significance.

Fact: An Easter egg hunt is a tradition that originated with pagan spring festivals. But like many pagan practices, Easter egg hunting was eventually adopted by Christians and assigned religious significance. In the Orthodox and Eastern Catholic Churches, Easter eggs are dyed red to represent the blood of Christ shed on the cross. The hard shell of the egg symbolizes the sealed Tomb of Christ for many. In A.D. 1610 under Pope Paul V, the Christian

Church officially adopted the Easter egg custom that the eggs symbolize the resurrection.

Myth: An Easter egg roll is an American tradition.

Fact: In Germany, England and other countries, children traditionally rolled eggs down hillsides at Easter. This practice may have initially symbolized the rolling away of the rock from Jesus Christ's tomb before his resurrection. When European immigrants arrived in North America, they brought these Easter egg traditions with them. One of the more popular Easter egg rolls of modern day takes place on the White House lawn, where children push an egg through the grass with a long-handled spoon. Some say this tradition was established by Dolly Madison in 1814.

Myth: A raw egg will stand on end during the spring equinox.

Fact: It is believed that because the sun is equidistant from the south and north poles on the spring equinox, special gravita-

tional forces apply on this day. These forces should make it possible to balance an egg on its end only on this day. However, eggs can be balanced at other times of the year. Perhaps instead of hiding eggs for Easter, families may choose to hold egg-balancing competitions.

Easter eggs are a lasting tradition and one of the more popular symbols of the holiday. Although many myths surround Easter eggs, the truth is just waiting to be unhatched.



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The meaning of Good Friday

Good Friday is a Christian holiday that is observed every year on the Friday preceding Easter Sunday. Good Friday commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and his death at Calvary, the location outside of Jerusalem's walls where the crucifixion took place.

Though Good Friday is considered a holiday and is a legal holiday in many countries across the globe, the commemoration is not characterized by the festive atmosphere many holidays inspire. In fact, in the fourth century, the Apostolic Constitutions described Good Friday as a day of mourning and prayer. In addition, many Christians fast on Good Friday, eating only one full meal and two smaller meals that do not add up to a full meal.

Christians believe that commemorating the death of Christ helps to remind them of the sacrifices that Christ made and the hu-

man sin that contributed to his death.

The observance of Good Friday has existed for centuries. According to Catholic Online, the Catholic Church does not celebrate Mass on Good Friday, though church services held on Good Friday correspond to the divisions of a traditional Mass. These services include the Liturgy of the Word, during which the Passion of Jesus Christ is read; the intercessory prayers for all people, including non-Christians; the Veneration of the Cross, during which the crucifix is unveiled to the congregation; and the Holy Communion. During these services, the church organ and bells are silent.

Good Friday is one of the holiest days of the year for Christians across the globe. This year Good Friday is observed on March 25, 2016.



Create religious Easter traditions

Easter is on the way, and practicing Christians across the globe have spent the Lenten season preparing for the day when they celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Lent is a season best spent in the company of close friends and family, and the following are a few ways for Christians to celebrate their faith in the weeks leading up to Easter Sunday.

• Give Easter eggs a different meaning. Easter eggs are popular among youngsters, and that popularity can be used to teach kids about their faith. Eggs are frequently viewed as a symbol of new life, so parents can use them to show their children how Christ died and was born anew. Eggs can be filled with small items that symbolize something related to Christ's story; or they can be left empty to represent the empty tomb after His resurrection.

• Eat food that conveys Biblical stories. For Easter dinner, enjoy foods that are mentioned in the Bible. A fish dinner can convey the story of how Jesus multiplied fish to feed the crowds, or dine on lamb and share the story of Passover.

• Participate in church services. Throughout Lent, many parishes offer Easter vigils or specialized services that relate the account of Jesus' life and subsequent death on the cross. Some churches may recreate realistic stations of the Cross. Employing pageantry to bring biblical stories to life can help young children visualize and better understand the meaning of Easter.

• Create a Christ-centered Easter basket. Parents can still fill kids' Easter baskets with some of the familiar confectionary treats, but those parents who impart lessons about their faith to their kids also can include books about the story of Easter, ro-

sary beads, a crucifix for a child's room, and maybe a children's Bible.

• Make time for volunteer work. Many families reserve volunteerism for the Christmas season, but Easter also marks a great time to volunteer. In a season that focuses on the ultimate sacrifice, families can open their hearts to others. Invite someone over for Easter dinner who has nowhere to go. Share your holiday celebrations with a person of another faith so that he or she may be able to see what makes this time of year special. Create a service jar filled with small, loving tasks everyone in the family can do each day.

The Lenten season, including Easter, is the most celebrated time of the year for Christians. Families can enjoy the festivities by blending many different traditions together and by focusing on the spirituality of the season.

Candy of the season

Easter means many different things to many different people. But, let's be honest. The candy is pretty important. The treats that fill our Easter baskets are many, and they are all delicious, but three top the list as Easter basket classics.

Let's begin with the treat you either love or hate: Peeps. Put simply, Peeps are marshmallows rolled in sugar. There is no middle ground with Peeps. You say the word, and people either squeal with delight or recoil in disgust. Either way, they are an Easter staple. Peeps were given birth by a man named Sam Born, who founded the Just Born Candy Company in 1953. The company acquired the Rodda Candy Company, which included a marshmallow chick line. Sam's brother-in-law Bob helped to mass-produce the treats, and Peeps began their marshmallow monopoly.

Peeps were named for the original chick shape, but have since

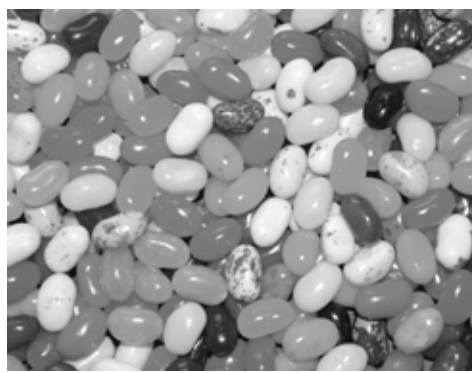
branched out — way out. Today, you can get Peeps for almost any holiday; Christmas results in tree- and snowman-shaped Peeps, and Halloween results in pumpkin- and bat-shaped Peeps. Plus, the flavors and colors have expanded over the years. In 1995 lavender was added to the existing color line of yellow, pink and white. You can even get chocolate-flavored Peeps. As mentioned above, there are Peep haters and Peep lovers, but a subgroup does exist. They are the Peep lovers who are split between eating the candy fresh out of the package or letting it sit out and get a little crunchy.

The next sweet Easter treat is arguably the most traditional, jelly beans. The origin of jelly beans is somewhat blurry, but it is believed they were born of a combination of Turkish Delight and Jordan Almonds. Turkish Delight is a jelly candy coated in powdered sugar. Jordan Almonds are almonds covered in a hard candy shell. The two concepts were merged and jelly beans were born.

Jelly beans hit their stride in the United States in the early 20th century, but it wasn't until the 1930s that they became associated with Easter. The bean stayed pretty standard until 1976, when the world was introduced to Jelly Belly jelly beans. These beans took the concept to a whole new level. They were flavored inside and out and came in a variety of flavors. Some of the wackier flavors include popcorn and can-

taloupe.

The Easter candy completing the big three is, of course, the chocolate bunny. Tens of millions of these cocoa hares are produced each year. That's a big number considering they are not like jelly beans, which can be found year-round. Chocolate bunnies came to the United States in 1842 when Stephen Whitman founded Whitman's Chocolates. Since then, the bunnies have expanded in a rainbow of flavors. You can even get them hollow or solid. Some people wonder why these treats were ever made hollow when a solid bunny gives you more chocolate. The answer



is simple. Hollow bunnies are easier to eat.

Having a sweet treat is great anytime, but Easter gives you an excuse to really sink your teeth into some candy classics. It doesn't matter if you're filling an Easter basket or raiding one, you'll probably see at least one of the big three.

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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.
Matthew 28:5-6

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New twist on spring and Easter decorating

Eggs are symbolic of Easter. They're colored, decorated, hidden, and used in decorative items for the home. The one caveat to eggs is that they are quite fragile, and even hard-boiled eggs can be rendered useless with one accidental drop or blow. Instead of relying on breakable eggs for Easter fun, consider making stronger ones instead.

Symbolic of rebirth and renewal, eggs are an integral part of setting the scene come early spring. Selecting a less fragile material to create the looks of real eggs can increase the potential for using them in many different applications. One of the easiest ways to create harder-to-break eggs is to make them out of clay.

Modeling clay is a versatile medium that can be used to make everything from clay eggs to bunny figurines to religious items synonymous with Easter.

A visit to the local craft store or even a chain retailer will likely turn up different clay products, which come in a variety of colors. You can create pastel-colored clay by mixing primary colors with white clay if you cannot find pastel colors in the store.

There are two main ways to create egg shapes out of a ball of clay. One way is to roll a ball out of the clay and then roll it vertically between your hands to make the smaller end of the egg. Another is to use a plastic egg as a mold and stuff the clay inside. Pop open the top of the plastic egg and then gently tap the clay out.

You don't even have to color your clay if you don't feel up to it. You may also use white clay,

allow to dry, and then paint them using acrylic paints. Mix two clay colors together before forming into an egg to achieve a marbled effect.

Also think about adding embellishments like stickers, ribbon, bows, and flowers to the eggs, much in the same way you would decorate real eggs.

To display clay eggs in a vase or to attach to a spring wreath, thread a dowel or piece of florist's wire into the egg before allowing to harden completely. Then attach them as needed. Clay eggs can be used in place of regular eggs in just about every traditional egg use — except of course for making egg salad! Plus, making clay eggs is a fun and safe craft for all ages.

Eggs in a Nest

Here's a creative way to show off clay eggs.

Materials:

- 2 to 3 eggs depending on size
- Moss or raffia
- Ribbon
- Florist wire

Weave or shape the raffia or moss into a nest shape large enough to fit the clay eggs. Secure as necessary with the wire. Decorate with bows made out of ribbon.

Place the eggs into the nest and display where desired.

Explaining the Christian holy season



About one-third of the planet, or roughly 2.1 billion people, are Christians. Each spring, this large subset of the population celebrates the religious miracle that is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The Lenten season is one of the holiest times of the year on the Christian calendar. This is a period of 40 days and nights that begins with Ash Wednesday at the beginning of Lent and lasts through Easter Sunday. Many Christians celebrate Easter but may not know the significance or meaning behind certain days on the Lenten calendar. Here is a primer on the Lenten season for Christians and non-Christians alike.

Ash Wednesday

In the Roman Catholic Church, Ash Wednesday marks the first day of Lent, the season when one prepares for the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Ash Wednesday always falls 46 days before Easter and will vary according to the calendar.

Ash Wednesday is a Holy Day of Obligation, which means parishioners are expected to attend mass to mark the beginning of the holy season. During the mass, celebrants receive ashes in the form of a cross on their foreheads. The ashes are made from burning the blessed palm fronds from last year's Palm Sunday mass.

In ancient times ashes were worn as a symbol of sorrow, repentance and acknowledgment of sins. Nowadays, ashes allow Christians to humbly display an outward sign that they are aware of their shortcomings and are cleansing their souls in the preparation for the celebration of Christ's resurrection.

Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week and it is a day of obligation when Christians attend mass, and they receive fronds of blessed palms.

Occurring a week before Easter, Palm Sunday commemorates the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. The gospels record the arrival of Jesus riding into the city on a donkey, while the crowds spread their cloaks and palm branches on the street and shouted "Hosanna to the Son of David" and "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord" to honor him as their long-awaited Messiah and King.

Holy Thursday

Holy Thursday is the Thursday preceding Easter Sunday. It marks Jesus Christ's last supper with his disciples. His act of breaking bread and offering it as His "body" and sharing wine as His "blood" has become an integral part of the Christian mass. It is representative of Christ giving up His life in place of our sins.

Good Friday

Good Friday is also known as Black Friday but should not be mistaken with the post-Thanksgiving Black Friday. It is the day that Jesus had to march to his crucifixion site while carrying an extremely heavy wooden cross. Jesus was mocked, spit on, tortured, and forced to wear a crown of thorns during His journey after being arrested by Judas and then suffering at the hands of Pontius Pilate. After being nailed to the cross at His palms and ankles, Jesus suffered for six hours before He died. Jesus died on the cross for the sins of the people.

Easter Sunday

The holiest day of the season is Easter Sunday. On this day, Jesus rose from His tomb. Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and found Jesus missing. Jesus then approached her and showed how He was again alive. His disciples were shocked at the appearance of his resurrected self, furthering their faith in him as the Son of God.



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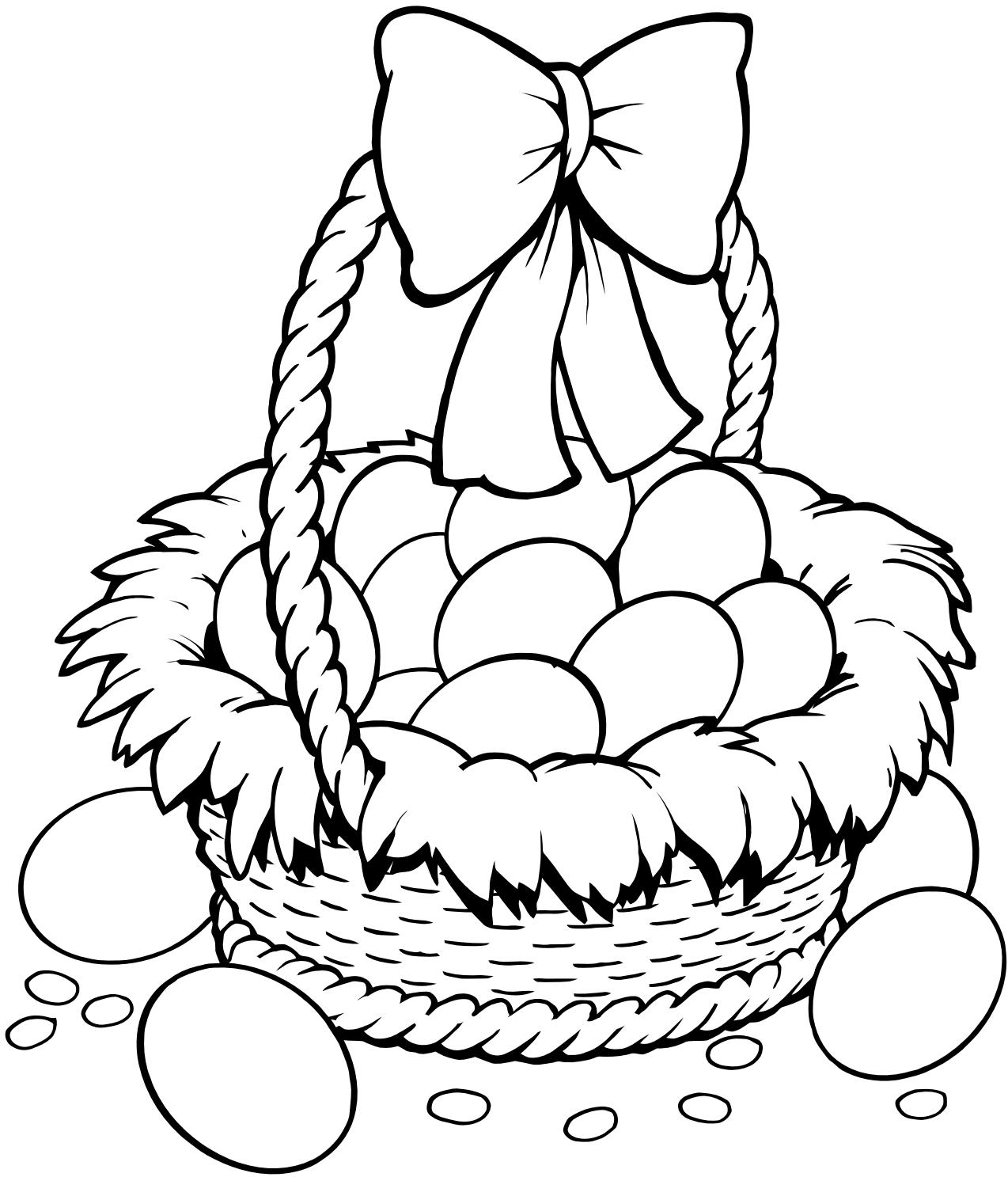


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Did you know?

Holy Thursday, which falls on the Thursday before Easter Sunday, commemorates The Last Supper of Jesus Christ. During The Last Supper, Jesus, who Christians believe is the Son of God, established the sacrament of Holy Communion. The Last Supper was the final meal Jesus enjoyed with his disciples in Jerusalem, and it was during The Last Supper when Jesus predicted one of those disciples would ultimately betray him. Holy Thursday is sometimes referred to as "Maundy Thursday," a reference to the religious rite of maundy, which is the washing of the feet. The Last Supper and the rite of maundy are connected because it was during The Last Supper that Jesus washed the feet of his disciples. Though The Last Supper, during which Jesus gave his disciples bread, telling them it was his body, and wine, telling them it was his blood, is celebrated at every Mass as part of the Liturgy of the Eucharist, Holy Thursday Mass places even greater emphasis on this significant event.

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6 EASTER EGG HUNT IDEAS

- Treasure Egg Hunt:** Make a map of your house and/or yard area. Draw a line on the map that the hunter is supposed to follow to reach the prize, a big plastic egg with a surprise Easter gift in it.
- Secret Egg Hunt:** Place messages in the eggs for big prizes. Examples might be an ice cream treat at a local shop, play putt putt golf, movie tickets or money for the Red Box, a bowling pass, favorite place to eat coupon, etc.
- Golden and Silver Egg Hunt:** Place money in the golden or silver eggs, and candy in colored eggs. Place a golden and a silver egg among the other Easter eggs and hide them, with the golden and silver eggs being hidden the hardest.
- Name Egg Hunt:** Write the kids' names on the eggs and whoever finds their name first wins a special prize.
- Hide the Easter basket Egg Hunt:** Hide the kids' Easter baskets and set clues in the eggs for them to find the basket.
- Inside Egg Hunt:** Hide eggs in the house and have the kids find them. Also can hide candy for first thing Easter morning, and when the kids wake up, they can begin to find and collect candy. For fairness, candy can be hidden in different rooms and assigned to kids.

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And rose victorious in the strife
For those he came to save;
His glories now we sing
Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring,
And lives that death may die.
~ Matthew Bridges, 1851
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The Resurrection of Jesus as a Jerusalem Newspaper Might Have Reported It

JERUSALEM, MONDAY, APRIL 9, 33 A.D.

JESUS IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD

Grave in the Garden Reported Empty

Man of Galilee Influenced Many

Last Friday Jesus of Nazareth was put to death by crucifixion. Today the population of this capitol city was rocked by the startling news that he is alive! Who is this man who has made such an impact on the whole city and country?

Born in the city of Bethlehem about 33 years ago, Jesus spent most of his childhood and youth in Nazareth. He lived with his parents, Joseph and Mary, attending the regular Jewish schools and assisting his father in the carpenter shop.

It is reported that the popular preacher had an intense interest in people. On one of his trips to Jerusalem ten men afflicted with leprosy came to him for help. He directed them to report to the priests for inspection. It was on their way to the temple that they were healed.

Certainly a person who can heal a disease such as leprosy would be considered a desirable member of society.

While he and his disciples were resting in the plains near Bethsaida, over five thousand people came out to see and hear him. We are told that Jesus fed the whole group with five loaves of bread and two fish. It is no surprise that they wanted to proclaim him king at this

point in this ministry.

When the daughter of Jairus died, we are told, she was restored to life by the words: "Damsel, I say to you, arise." Some of his followers tell us that even though his friend Lazarus had been dead four days, he called him back to life with the words: "Lazarus, come forth." It is not surprising that someone who apparently has power over life and death should be heralded as the Son of God.

Although his ministry was marked with concern and compassion for the masses he nevertheless did take exception to many of the pronouncements and the activities of the leaders of the church. Because of this attitude, the church leaders refused to accept him.

Religious lawyers sought to discredit him in the eyes of the public. When this failed, they plotted his death. Persuading one of Jesus' own followers, Judas Iscariot, to betray him, they succeeded in a conspiracy which ultimately ended in his death.

But did they really succeed? Today it seems that even death could not silence Jesus of Nazareth. While opposition leaders are vigorously seeking to silence the startling reports of his resurrection, there are many others who now are certain that Jesus of Nazareth was not only sent from God, but that he is God Himself.



From the Editor's Desk

We had a different editorial prepared for today's issue. But the news of the events of yesterday changed our plans.

With great interest we had followed the capture, trial and crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth. After He was buried on Friday, we turned to the other things. But early yesterday morning word came to us that this Jesus had returned to life.

What the events of the past weekend will mean to the world is rather difficult to ascertain on the day after Christ's resurrection. From this vantage point it appears that we can expect great things. Some of the faithful followers of Christ remember the many prophecies concerning the Messiah's coming. Yesterday's events, according to reliable reports, indicate that the Messiah is none other than the risen Christ.

We are told that over four thousand years ago the Lord reminded Abraham that the members of the Lord's church would be as numerous as sands upon the seashore.

Does this mean that the message of the Messiah would cover the whole earth?

It is reported that last Thursday night as Christ met privately with His disciples in the upper room He prayed to God saying, "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe in Me through their word."

Could it be that the news of Christ's resurrection will be proclaimed throughout the world?

Will the message of Jesus Christ invade the powerful strongholds of Greece and Rome?

It is possible that the risen Christ will become more important than the god Jupiter, or that Socrates and Plato will fade before this One who said, "I am the Son of God?"

It might be well that we all heed the words of the angel, "Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here; He is arisen! Remember how He spake unto you when He was yet in Galilee, saying, 'the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.'"

Highlights of Jesus' Trial

Early Friday morning Jesus of Nazareth was brought by church officials in Jerusalem to Governor Pontius Pilate for trial. Five days before, great multitudes of Passover pilgrims and common people had welcomed Jesus of Nazareth to Jerusalem as the Christ, the King of Israel.

Church authorities expressed fear that such a popular acclaim might easily lead to insurrections and bloodshed. High Priest Caiaphas suggested that it would be better for one man to die than for the Jewish people to perish.

The charge brought by the church leaders before Pilate, was that Jesus was stirring up rebellion against the Roman Government by claiming to be Christ, a King. When examined by the Governor, Jesus said: "My kingdom is not of this world... Everyone that is of the truth heareth My voice."

Pilate ruled that teaching truth is no crime against civil government. King Herod, who was in Jerusalem at the time, agreed that Jesus of Nazareth was not guilty of organizing rebellion against civil authorities. The Governor invoked the custom of

pardoning a prisoner at the Passover feast. When given a choice the people called for the release of Barabbas and demanded the crucifixion of Jesus. To pacify the Jewish leaders Pilate had Jesus scourged and crowned with thorns, but to no avail. The church leaders threatened to accuse Pilate of disloyalty to the Roman Emperor, if he failed to sentence Jesus to be crucified. Pilate agreed to do so after symbolically washing his hands to disavow any responsibility of the matter. Thereupon, the accusers expressed willingness to assume the blame by saying: "His blood be on us."

As the procession of the condemned made its way through the crowds on the way to Calvary, Jesus faltered under the weight of his cross. The soldiers drafted the services of a Passover pilgrim, Simon of Cyrene, to carry Jesus' cross. Of this man little is known except that he has two sons, Rufus and Alexander.

Only once did Jesus pause to speak. He then said, "Daughters of Jerusalem! Weep not for me, weep for yourselves and for your children." Briefly he spoke to them of the destruction which He said would come to the holy city of Jerusalem.

Reaching Calvary four soldiers then crucified Jesus and cast lots for His clothing. At the direction of Pilate the soldiers placed the superscription on his cross: JESUS OF NAZARETH, KING OF THE JEWS.

Eyewitnesses Testify To Resurrection

Early yesterday morning several women set out for Joseph's garden to complete the task of anointing Christ's body. They kept asking each other, "Who shall roll away the stone from the door of the sepulchre?"

When they came to the grave they saw that the stone was rolled away. They could hardly believe their eyes, for on the stone was a most unusual person. He was dressed in a pure white garment and his face was as brilliant as lightning.

It is reported that this was an angel and that he told the women, "Fear not, for I know that you seek

Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen as He said. Come see the place where you and the others put His body. Now go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and He will meet you in Galilee."

The women left the grave and as they returned to the city they were met by the risen Jesus whom they immediately recognized.

Another follower of Jesus, Mary Magdalene, also came to the grave early yesterday. Mary remained at the grave and was very dejected over the absence of Christ's body. She even accused a man, whom she thought as the local gardener, of stealing the body. To her utter surprise, this man was none other than the risen Christ who identified Himself by calling her by her name.

Last evening, Jesus appeared to ten of his disciples in Jerusalem.

Last Words of Jesus Unusual

The death of Jesus of Nazareth was unlike any other death. Even the words of this dying man were extraordinary.

After Jesus was nailed to the cross and the cross was placed in an upright position, He prayed for pardon and forgiveness for His enemies. A Roman soldier remarked, "Usually we are cursed to death in hell."

A conversation took place between Jesus on the center cross and the thief who was crucified on His right. The thief apparently recognized in Jesus more than criminal traits as he asked to be remembered by Him in His kingdom. The thief received the answer, "Today you shall be with Me in paradise."

Great concern was expressed about the darkness which prevailed for three hours, from noon to three in the afternoon. Out of that darkness Jesus was heard to cry in a tone of anguish and intense suffering, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

It became apparent that Jesus was going through more than physical suffering in His body. There appeared to be a deeper anguish and suffering that went beyond the torment of crucifixion.

A few minutes before His death he shouted, "It is finished!" That appeared to be a shout of victory. Was it a victory just to die? Or was there some other victory or accomplishment He gained through this suffering and death?

At this time analysts are trying to piece together these words of Jesus of Nazareth to determine what meaning they carry. The question being asked is, "Was Jesus giving His life in place of others rather than dying for any crimes He had committed?"

Events in Nature Cause Concern

Phenomena in nature during the past few days have caused the citizens of the area no small concern.

Friday from noon until 3:00 p.m. this city and all the region, possibly the whole world, was shrouded in darkness. Never before in the history of man, as far as can be determined, has the midday sun been completely darkened. This phenomenon was not an eclipse of the sun, since the Passover is held during the period of the full moon, thus making the eclipse impossible.

Two earth tremors of considerable intensity were reported. It seems uncanny if not ominous, that the first quake occurred precisely at the moment Jesus of Nazareth died. The time of the second tremor coincides with the time the Roman guards reported the tomb was opened and found empty.

Such happenings certainly challenge rational and scientific explanation. Can it be that history will pronounce these events "acts of God?"

Judas Iscariot Suicide Victim

Last Friday night a body was found hanging from a rope at the outskirts of Jerusalem. The dead man has been identified as Judas Iscariot, the treasurer of the disciples of Jesus of Nazareth.

Judas had contracted with the church officials to betray Jesus into their hands for thirty pieces of silver. Once the deed was done, Judas apparently was plagued with guilt feelings.

It is reported he tried to return the money to the church officials but they were totally unconcerned. This refusal to accept his offer sparked the traitor's suicide.

Secret Follower Interviewed

Nicodemus, a teacher of religion in Jerusalem, has come out openly in support of the cause of Jesus of Nazareth. One of our reporters secured an interview with the aging religious leader who is rumored to have assisted with the interment of the body of Jesus in Joseph's garden.

It was revealed that Nicodemus has had an increasing conviction that Jesus is the Messiah. On occasion the two met secretly.

In answer to our reporter's questions as to why he considered Jesus to be the promised Messiah, Nicodemus read the following words from Isaiah: "He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief, and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our grief, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."

Turning from the prophecy, Nicodemus stated, "I can't help believing that these words, as well as many others in the prophecy speak of Jesus Christ. You reporters covered his trial. You were out there on Golgotha when they crucified him. You saw how they manhandled him, how they scoffed and mocked him. What do you think?"

"It may cost me my position; it may even cost me my life, but I can't keep still any longer. I'm ashamed that I haven't spoken out sooner."

"When I recall the events of his life and the words of the scriptures about the Messiah, I cannot but say this Jesus is the promised Son of God, our Messiah!"

The Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Mound City presents this page with the prayer that the blessings of Easter may continue in your life.

Great Excitement in Emmaus

Late Sunday afternoon a young man, Cleopas, related a strange experience he had earlier in the day.

According to Cleopas, the crucified Messiah is not only alive, but has been seen, talked to and dined with, all during the past twelve hours.

A stranger joined Cleopas and a friend as they traveled to Emmaus. This trio discussed the recent events in Jerusalem. The stranger seemed to be unaware of all the excitement of the last few days.

He asked Cleopas and his friend why they were so sad. Cleopas then explained that their sadness was because Jesus of Nazareth was put to death and even though it was reported that Jesus was alive, no one had seen Him.

When they arrived at Emmaus, they invited this stranger to supper. "It was during the act of blessing the bread that we recognized Him as the risen Christ," Cleopas claimed. "But before we could greet Him and express our joy, He was gone."

Returning to Jerusalem, Cleopas and his friend met with Jesus' disciples and reported what had happened on their trip to Emmaus.

Peter and John related their experience of that morning. They had rushed to the tomb when they heard of the possible resurrection. They found the tomb empty, but identified the grave clothes as those used to wrap Jesus' body for burial.

Suddenly Jesus Himself stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you."

Charges Church Trial Fake

Charges were made today that the trial of Jesus of Nazareth before the Church Court last Friday was not legal. In an exclusive interview, Joseph of Arimathea, a member of the Sanhedrin, claimed that the death sentence was not unanimous and that a gross miscarriage of justice was committed.

Incensed over the action of the court and claiming an innocent man had been condemned, the eminent counselor referred to the following five improper actions of the court:

1) It is illegal to begin court action at night; yet the first appearance of Jesus before the court took place at approximately two o'clock in the morning.

2) It is illegal to hold court on Friday, the day before the Sabbath, or on the day preceding a high festival; yet Jesus was tried on Friday, the day preceding the Passover.

3) It is illegal to try a prisoner without benefit of defense; yet no witnesses were called in defense of Jesus. (The counselor claims that he called this point specifically to the attention of his fellow jurists, but that it was denied.)

4) It is illegal to try a man and to pronounce capital punishment within one day; yet Jesus was apprehended, arraigned, tried and crucified within less than eighteen hours.

5) Finally, it is illegal to pass the death sentence on the testimony of one witness alone; yet Joseph claims that none of the witnesses for the prosecution agreed in their testimony against Jesus, and STILL the court condemned him!

The jurist claimed that he refused to vote for condemnation at the trial. Among other obvious reasons, he stated that he is convinced that Jesus of Nazareth is actually the promised Messiah, the Hope of Israel! For this reason he made the new sepulcher in this spacious garden available for the burial of the Nazarene. He also stated that for the same reason, Nicodemus, a respected teacher of religion, assisted in the final rites for Jesus in the garden late Friday afternoon.

Centurion Testifies

The centurion, who was in charge of the crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth and responsible for preserving law and order, gave what may be considered the most eloquent testimony of all in regard to the person who was crucified on Calvary's hill.

He had been a silent witness to all that happened. When questioned soon after the events of Friday, he spoke with conviction. He stated that there had been a great miscarriage of justice, since the words and actions of the man crucified were not those of a man guilty of crime.

When asked who he thought the crucified man was, he replied, "To the best of my knowledge, He was, as He Himself said, the Son of God." That this sort of testimony should come from a man trained in the rigors and discipline of the Roman army is indeed surprising. It is proof that the death of Jesus of Nazareth has had an impact on all with whom He came in contact. Could it be that this confession of the centurion will encourage other centurions to confess Jesus as Lord and Savior?

Reluctant To Condemn Jesus

Checking the transcript of the trial held last week in Pilate's court, this reporter notes that the governor was very reluctant to order the execution of Jesus of Nazareth. The flow of events proves that the Governor placed himself in an awkward position before the church leaders. It must be said nonetheless that had Pilate been more a judge and less a politician, only two men would have been crucified last Friday.

It is quite apparent that from the time of the preliminary examination until the final signing of the death warrant, Pilate was convinced that the prisoner was innocent of the charges preferred. He sensed that the charges were merely a cover-up and that it was envy that motivated the insistence upon the death sentence of Jesus.

Throughout the trial one can hear Pilate stating, "I find no fault in him at all." It is interesting to note that the esteemed governor sought justice. Hearing that the governor of Galilee was in the city, he sent the prisoner, who was a Galilean, to Herod. However, after examining Jesus, Herod gave the verdict "Not Guilty."

It was at this time that the Governor invoked the use of the age-old Passover custom of releasing a criminal from jail. Shrewdly he selected Barabbas, a hated and dangerous killer. The governor thought that society would not want this crazed rebel and murderer back in circulation. To his distress the leaders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas' freedom and Jesus' death.

Sensing that the crowd would be satisfied with nothing less than blood, the judge compromised justice and ordered the innocent prisoner scourged. Dripping with blood, disheveled and thorn-crowned, Jesus was presented to the crowd as Pilate announced: "Behold, I bring him forth unto you that you may know that I find no fault in him. Behold the Man." Again the crowd would not be pacified. The Governor finally reconciled himself to the fact that neither compromise nor reason would satisfy the mob.

It was then that the opposition took command calling out: "If you release this man, you are not the emperor's friend." Was this a veiled threat? Would Pilate's past misdeeds be reported to Caesar? Reluctantly but deliberately, he washed his hands before the mob, saying: "I am innocent of the blood of this just Person; see to it yourselves." Reluctantly he signed the death warrant for Jesus of Nazareth. Justice finally had been trampled into the dust. Pilate had sold out to the opposition.

This raises some interesting questions: Will Rome condone such action in its courts? Can Pilate continue as Governor? What, in fact, does the future hold for Pilate? Time alone will tell.

Jesus' Burial Near Calvary

Friday afternoon at 3:00 p.m. Jesus of Nazareth died.

Joseph of Arimathea requested permission from Pilate to bury the body in his new tomb which is close to Calvary. The Roman governor granted the request.

Because of the lateness in the day and the approaching Sabbath, the preparation of the body for burial was not completed.

Easter Symbols

From: <http://bibleresources.americanbible.org/node/1419>

What do the symbols of Easter mean? What do they have to do with the resurrection of Jesus Christ? Below is a brief description of some familiar (and not so familiar) Easter symbols and their meanings:

Easter Lilies
Easter lilies bloom in the spring close to Easter time. Because they are shaped like trumpets, lilies are symbols of immortality (1 Corinthians 15:52).

Butterflies
The life cycle of a butterfly is a symbol of eternal life. While in its cocoon, it undergoes a metamorphosis and emerges in a new and beautiful form (1 Corinthians 15:53,54).

Eggs
When some people think of Easter, they immediately think of eggs. Eggs symbolize the new life that returns to nature during the spring. The egg is a symbol of fertility and immortality. Thus, Christians also view it as a reminder of the tomb from which Jesus Christ arose (Luke 24:1-4). Early

Christians used red colored eggs to symbolize the Resurrection.

Lights And Candles
Lights, candles, and bonfires are used as a way to celebrate Easter in some countries. Many Christians often light seven

candles in the church on Good Friday and then extinguish them one by one as Jesus' seven last words are read. At the end of the service, worshipers leave the church in darkness and silence. Candles are lit again with the Pascal Candle, or Easter Candle, on Easter Day.

The Cross
The cross is a symbol of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. Crucifixion was a common way to punish criminals and to publicly humiliate them in the ancient world. In Jesus' day, the Romans used crucifixion to put

criminals to death. A person was tied with cords and nailed to a wooden cross that was shaped like a T or like a plus sign (+). Jesus was accused of starting a revolt against the Roman government by allowing himself to be called "King of the Jews" (Mark 15:6-15). Jesus' resurrection is his victory over the power of sin and death (Romans 3:25,26). That is why the cross has become the major symbol for God's power to forgive sins and give new life to people (1 Corinthians 1:18). People often bake hot cross buns to symbolize this event.

associated with the Easter season:
Lion
Jesus is described as the Lion of the tribe of Judah in Revelation 5:5.

Whale
Sometimes the story of Jonah and his encounter with a large fish is compared to the story of Christ's death and resurrection. Jonah spent three days in the belly of a fish, before being spit up on a beach (Jonah 1:17; 2:10). Christ spent three days in the grave and rose on the third day.

Clever alternatives to traditional dyed Easter eggs

Easter is a time when Christian families gather to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Religious customs abound on Easter, but a number of secular traditions have emerged as well. Perhaps the most popular secular tradition associated with Easter is the coloring of Easter eggs.

Easter egg dyeing kits emerge in early spring. Consumers have a variety of alternatives to these kits at their disposal. There are some people who desire more environmentally friendly Easter eggs, so here are some creative and greener ideas for coloring eggs this year.

* **Wooden eggs:** Visit a craft store and purchase wooden eggs that can be painted and decorated however you desire. The wooden eggs will be durable and can be stored away for use each and every year. Because they are made of wood, a naturally recyclable material, they are easy on the environment.

* **Consider natural dyes.** Use different food items to create all-natural dyes for the eggs. Tea, fruit and vegetable juices -- even packaged drink mixes -- can be used to tint Easter eggs in various colors. Because you're controlling the materials you use, you can ensure they are safe to use.

* **Experiment with papier mache.** This ancient paper crafting technique uses recycled paper and a paste to create a hardened mold. Turn excess scraps of paper into delightful eggs put on display for the holiday.

* **Purchase cornstarch eggs.** Cornstarch is used in everything from packing materials to children's craft products. Cornstarch can be molded into solid forms or foam-type consistencies. Egg kits are sold with this green material. When Easter is over, the cornstarch eggs can be put out for composting. Foam-type eggs may be dissolved with water.

* **Make edible eggs.** Traditional Easter eggs can be wasteful if the eggs are boiled and used entirely for display. Rather, make eggs that will be enjoyed and are not at risk of spoiling and are not too soon after being on display. Gelatin-dessert eggs is one way to use the eggs after Easter, and creative people can try crafting eggs out of meringue as well.

* **Dough eggs:** Have the children get out their favorite modeling dough and craft multi-colored eggs as a fun, rainy-day project. Those who want the eggs to last can purchase actual clay from the craft store or whip up their own medium at home. After drying, the eggs should be ready to paint.

* **Drained eggs:** Those interested in using the yolks and albumen from the eggs for cooking can poke small holes into the eggs and drain them. Then the remaining eggshells can be decorated and put on display.

The Lamb
The lamb is another symbol associated with Jesus. He is often referred to in the Bible as the "Lamb of God" (Revelation 5:6-14). John the Baptist described Jesus as the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). The Passover lamb (Exodus 12:1-11) has been interpreted by Christians as foreshadowing Jesus' sacrificial death (1 Corinthians 5:7).

Below is a description of some less familiar symbols as-

Sand Dollar
The markings on this shell symbolize components of Christ's birth and death. The five-point outline on the front of the sand dollar represents the star of Bethlehem (Matthew 2:1,2). The five holes in the sand dollar represent the pierced hands, feet, and side of Christ (Psalm 22:16; John 20:26,27). When the sand dollar is opened, it reveals five tiny objects that look similar to flying doves. Doves symbolize the Holy Spirit (Luke 3:21,22).

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Thursday, March 24, 2016
Maundy Thursday Service, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 25, 2016
Good Friday Service, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 27, 2016
Easter Sunrise Service, 6:30 a.m.
Breakfast to Follow
Easter Morning Worship, 9:30 a.m.





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KIDS' CORNER


Jokes and Riddles

Q: How did the Easter egg get off the highway?
A: It went through the eggs-it.

Q: What did the Easter egg do when tickled?
A: It cracked up!



COLORING PICTURE

Let 'em Roll

Every year, the White House holds an Easter egg roll for kids age 12 and younger. Activities range from storytelling to games and egg rolling, of course. The Easter bunny also arrives to greet the crowd. Many people believe First Lady Dolley Madison started the egg roll. She had heard about the Egyptian custom of egg rolling and planned her own event to take place on the Monday after Easter on the grounds of the Capitol building. Egg rolling on the Capitol grounds continued until 1878 when Congress decided there had been too much damage to the grounds and passed a law against it. President William Howard Taft moved the event to the White House lawn and egg rolling has been held there ever since, except during times of war and bad weather.



Have a blessed Easter

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Name That Spot

Hunting for Easter eggs can be loads of fun. Fill in the blanks to name some of the spots outside where you might find an Easter egg hidden.


- FL _ W _ R _ P _ T
- GRA _ _ _
- TI _ E _ S _ IN _
- BI _ _ BA _ H
- WH _ _ LBA _ _ OW
- LA _ N _ C _ AI _
- S _ ND _ OX



Answers: (1) Flower Pot, (2) Grass, (3) Tree Swing, (4) Birdhouse, (5) Wheelbarrow, (6) Lawn Chair, (7) Sandbox

WHAT RHYMES WITH...

D Y E



List 10 words that rhyme with "dye."


- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Some answers: by, cry, dry, eye, fly, hi, lie, my, pie

FACT OR FICTION? EGG DYING CHALLENGE

Dyeing Easter eggs can be loads of fun with the right preparations. Here are some questions about dyeing Easter eggs. How many can you answer correctly?

- Eggs should be cooked before being dyed. **Fact or Fiction?**
- Eggs may be boiled on the stovetop or in the microwave. **Fact or Fiction?**
- Eggs should be pricked right before cooking. **Fact or Fiction?**
- Eggs should be boiled in a single layer in the pan for even cooking. **Fact or Fiction?**
- Eggs should be removed from the heat once they reach a full boil and allowed to cook in the hot water remaining. **Fact or Fiction?**
- Clean hands are a must when dyeing eggs. **Fact or Fiction?**
- Eggs can be decorated in many ways. **Fact or Fiction?**
- Hands should be washed after handling eggs. **Fact or Fiction?**
- Eggs that will be eaten later should be refrigerated once dyed. **Fact or Fiction?**
- Easter eggs will remain good for a year. **Fact or Fiction?**



Answers: (1) Fact, (2) Fiction, the intense heat of microwaving could make eggs explode, (3) Fiction, germs could enter any holes in the shells, (4) Fact, (5) Fact, (6) Fact, oil and dirt from hands could get onto the eggshells and keep the dye from seeping into them, (7) Fact, (8) Fact, (9) Fact, (10) Fiction, they should be eaten soon after Easter



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