

April 12, 2022

Alleluia! Alleluia! Easter Sunday is actually considered the **most important** and **sacred Sunday** of the entire year. It marks the anniversary of **Jesus' resurrection** and **ascension** to heaven — and is **critical to our faith**.



Easter arrives at the end of Holy Week, right after **Good Friday**, which commemorates Jesus' crucifixion and death. Where **Good Friday** is essentially a day of **mourning**, **Easter** celebrates **Jesus' evasion of death**. It's **not** uncommon for believers to greet each other by saying "Christ has risen" in the same way they would say, "**Merry Christmas**." Perhaps you would like to share your faith in this way!

This greeting doesn't just acknowledge the belief that **Jesus rose** from his grave. It is also used as a **confirmation of faith**.

The Bible states that if Jesus hadn't risen, Christian preaching and faith would have been "in vain" or even "empty."

In other words, the **belief** that Christians have in **Jesus' divinity** is rooted in the moment of his **resurrection**.

Without that part of the Easter story, **Jesus simply dies and that's it**. According to the Bible, **Jesus' death** was a sacrifice for the **sins** of others, but his **resurrection** represents something even more powerful: **the potential for rebirth, salvation, and renewal of faith**.

So, despite the pastel-colored decorations and kids' games, Easter is a pretty **serious** holiday at its core. It celebrates **Christians' belief** in the **divine power** of Jesus and the **hope** that loss leads to something new. This doesn't mean it's all gloom and doom, but Easter definitely calls for some solemn reflection among believers.

*Let your hearts be glad,
shout with joy and
celebrate this great day.*

*Easter is here, and so is new life and hope.
Together let us sing ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!*

