

## Easter Traditions

Easter is one of the most important Christian festivals of the year, celebrating Jesus' resurrection three days after His crucifixion. Some Easter traditions in various countries may have originated in other faiths or customs, but they are nonetheless imbued with meaning we can relate to.

## 复活节传统

复活节是基督教一年中最重要的节日之一，我们在庆祝耶稣被钉死十字架三天后的复活。在不同国家里的一些复活节传统，可能来自其他宗教或习俗流传，儘管如此，它们仍然充满了我们所能理解的意义。





In Japan, wild lilies sprout up in uncultivated fields every spring, so it's not surprising the lily is a favorite symbol of Easter there, as well as in many parts of the world. The pure white blossoms remind us how Jesus took us, dirty in sin as we were, and washed us clean. As the lilies sprout after a long winter, so Jesus gives us new life through His resurrection.

在日本，每逢春天，野生百合花在未耕地上萌芽生长，难怪那里的人喜欢用百合花作为复活节的象征，世上许多地方也是如此。纯洁雪白的百合花，让我们想起虽然我们那么充满罪恶污秽，耶稣仍然接纳我们，并且洗净我们。就如百合花在漫长的冬天过后发芽生长，同样地，耶稣通过他的复活给予了我们新的生命。





In Russia, Orthodox Christians hold a prayer vigil service on Easter Eve. A large lit candle on the altar represents Jesus as the light of the world and is used to light each worshipper's candle. This tradition represents the spreading of Jesus' light throughout the world.

在俄罗斯，东正教基督徒在复活节前夕举行祈祷守夜礼拜。在教堂的祭坛上，点燃著一根大型蜡烛，它代表耶稣是世上的光，每位来敬拜的人会用这根蜡烛的火焰点燃自身的蜡烛。这个传统象征信徒把耶稣的光传播到世界各地。







Orthodox children in Greece and across Eastern Europe are sometimes seen tapping decorated eggs together. One child says, "Christ is risen," and the other replies, "Risen indeed!"

在希腊和东欧各国，有时人们会看到东正教基督徒孩子们，一起轻轻互敲著色彩鲜艳的复活蛋，其中一个孩子会说，“基督已复活！”另一个孩子则会回应，“他的确复活了！”





Many people around the world dramatize the Easter story in Passion plays. Perhaps the most famous Passion play is performed by the villagers of Oberammergau, in southern Germany. It was first performed in 1634 as the result of a vow made by the inhabitants during an outbreak of bubonic plague, and with only three exceptions, the play has been performed every 10 years since 1680.

世界各地许多人会以耶稣受难剧，来演出复活节的事迹。或许最有名的基督受难剧，是由德国南部欧巴马高村的村民演出的。该剧最早是在1634年演出，这是该村居民在黑死病爆发期间许下的誓言，如果上帝除灭了鼠疫，他们会每隔十年都上演基督受难剧。自1680年以来，只除了三次例外，该村每隔十年就会上演基督受难剧。



In Eastern European countries, the lamb is an important symbol of Easter. Many people serve lamb for the Easter feast, or make a lamb-shaped cake. Jesus is referred to in the Bible several times as the Lamb of God. For instance, upon seeing Jesus, John the Baptist said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" On the very day that Jesus was crucified, the Passover lamb was being sacrificed in the Jewish temple. Sacrificial Passover lambs needed to be without blemish. Jesus was without sin, and His death purchased forgiveness of sin and salvation for all who would accept Him as their Savior.

在东欧国家，羔羊是复活节的一个重要象征。许多人在复活节盛宴中端上以羔羊烹饪的菜肴，或烘烤一个羔羊形状的蛋糕。圣经中曾数次称耶稣为上帝的羔羊。比方说，当施洗约翰看到耶稣时，他说，“看哪！神的羔羊，除去世人罪孽的！”就在耶稣被钉十字架的那天，当时庆祝逾越节用的羔羊，正在犹太圣殿里被用来作为牺牲、献祭给神。逾越节的牺牲羔羊必须是没有瑕疵的。耶稣完美无罪，他用他的死亡赎得所有愿意接受他为救主的人的救恩和罪的赦免。





Easter is a time to celebrate new beginnings. Let Jesus touch your life, if He hasn't already, and He will give you heaven hereafter, as well as a wonderful new start here and now.

复活节是庆祝新开始的时候。如果你尚未让耶稣触动你的生命，现在就让他触动你的心、接受他吧！他会在来生赐给你天堂，并在此生现在就能拥有一个美好无比的新开始！



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