

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.

復活節傳統

復活節是基督教一年中最重要節日之一，我們在慶祝耶穌被釘死十字架三天後的復活。在不同國家裡的一些復活節傳統，可能來自其他宗教或習俗流傳，儘管如此，它們仍然充滿了我們所能理解的意義。



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長，難怪那裡的人喜歡用百合花作為復活節的象徵，世上許多地方也是如此。純潔雪白的百合花，讓我們想起雖然我們那麼充滿罪惡汙穢，但耶穌接納我們，並且洗淨我們。就如百合花在漫長的冬天過後發芽生長，同樣地，耶穌通過祂的復活給予了我們新的生命。



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.

在俄羅斯，東正教基督徒在復活節前夕舉行祈禱守夜禮拜。在教堂的祭壇上，點燃著一根大型蠟燭，它代表耶穌是世上的光，每位來敬拜的人會用這根蠟燭的火焰點燃自己的蠟燭。這個傳統象徵信徒把耶穌的光傳播到世界各地。





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!”

在希臘和東歐各國，有時人們會看到東正教基督徒孩子們，一起輕輕互敲著色彩鮮豔的復活蛋，其中一個孩子會說：「基督已復活！」另一個孩子則會回應：「祂的確復活了！」



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.

世界各地許多人會以耶穌受難劇，來演出復活節的事蹟。或許最有名的基督受難劇，是由德國南部歐巴瑪高村的村民演出的。該劇最早是在1634年演出，這是該村居民在黑死病爆發期間許下的誓言，如果上帝除滅了鼠疫，他們會每隔十年都上演基督受難劇。自1680年以來，只除了三次例外，該村每隔十年就會上演基督受難劇。

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.

在東歐國家，羔羊是復活節的一個重要象徵。許多人在復活節盛宴中端上以羔羊烹飪的菜餚，或烘培一個羔羊形狀的蛋糕。聖經中曾數次稱耶穌為上帝的羔羊。譬如，當施洗約翰看到耶穌時，他說：「看哪！神的羔羊，除去世人罪孽的！」就在耶穌被釘十字架的那天，當時慶祝逾越節用的羔羊，正在猶太聖殿裡被用來作為犧牲、獻祭給神。逾越節的犧牲羔羊必須是沒有瑕疵的。耶穌完美無罪，祂用祂的死亡贖得所有願意接受祂為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.

復活節是慶祝新開始的時候。如果你尚未讓耶穌觸動你的生命，現在就讓祂觸動你的心、接受祂吧！祂會在來生賜給你天堂，並在此生現在就可擁有一個美好無比的新開始！



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