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[Category -](#)

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Feast of Eostre



The word “Easter” comes from the Teutonic goddess of spring, Eostre. So Easter is the holiday of spring, hope, and new life. From prehistoric times, people everywhere have rejoiced to welcome spring. The awakening of the earth after its long winter sleep has been observed with feasting, singing, dancing and worship.

Easter is tied to the New Year celebration on April first. The beginning of spring and rebirth.

The Christians, in their usual zeal to steal preexisting holidays, saw relevance in a connection between the rebirth of nature and the resurrection of Jesus. Historically, this was usually celebrated around the Jewish feast of Passover, on the 14th of Nisan, the Jewish month that is about the same time as April. In 325, the church decided to fix the date as the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Vernal Equinox. This causes Easter to float around for when it is observed.

Universally, Easter is a rite of spring, a time to celebrate new life, to spread seed and rejoice in the sunshine. What better animal as a mascot than the rabbit?

In Hungary, it is a time to push people into water. In England men lift girls in decorated chairs for good luck. In Germany, kids build nests in their yards and the Easter bunny brings them eggs in the night. Some European children go door to door asking for eggs.

Some believe that painted eggs buried in the ground at Easter make the grapevines grow quickly. Some believed that the yolk of an egg laid at Easter time, if kept for a hundred years, will turn into a diamond.

If there is a myth to poke holes in about Easter, it would be the Easter Lilly. This flower was first brought to America by Louis Houghton in 1919 from the Ryukyu island of Japan and it wasn't even a springtime flower. Flower breeders had to create a version that would bloom around Easter. Ahh, marketing.

I suggest that you forget the marketing, including the Mel Gibson variety, and go look at the wild flowers in bloom. Wow!

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