

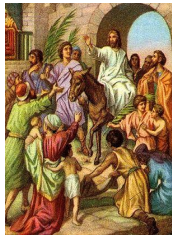
Quotes for Easter:

- "Easter says you can put truth in a grave, but it won't stay there." - **Clarence W. Hall.**
- "Snow in Christmas means Easter will be green." - **Anonymous**
- "Earth's saddest day and gladdest day were just three days apart!" - **Susan Coolidge**



God Can Move Your Mountain

When things seem impossible and life's so hard to bear, God can move your mountain, before you reach despair. He'll never leave you or forsake you. Trust him all the way. Be anxious for nothing and never cease to pray. So keep on climbing higher, be patient while you wait, for God is never early and also never late.



- The palm branch was a symbol of triumph and victory in pre-Christian times. The Romans rewarded champions of the games and celebrated military successes with palm branches.
- In Christian art, martyrs were usually shown holding a palm frond, representing the victory of spirit over flesh, and it was widely believed that a picture of a palm on a tomb meant that a martyr was buried there.



Four things you can't recover:

- 1- The stone after the throw.
- 2- The word after it's said.
- 3- The occasion after it's missed.
- 4- The time after it's gone.

"Yesterday I was crucified with Him; today I am glorified with Him; yesterday I died with Him; today I am quickened with Him; yesterday I was buried with Him; today I rise with Him. But let us offer to Him, He Who suffered and rose again for us— you will think perhaps that I am going to say gold, or silver, or woven work or transparent and costly stones, the mere passing material of earth, that remains here below, and is for the most part always possessed by bad men, slaves of the world and of the Prince of the world. Let us offer *ourselves*, the possession most precious to God, and most fitting; let us give back to the Image what is made after the Image. Let us recognize our Dignity; let us honor our Archetype; let us know the power of the Mystery, and for what Christ died."

- **(St. Gregory Nazianzen)**



What does Easter mean?

Eternity held its breath
And sent the Holy Child
Savior of all the earth
To God's will reconciled
Ensnared by bonds of death
Resurrected undefiled.



Do You Know?

- The word Pascha means "Passover" (Exodus 12:23).
- During this week, the church is adorned in black and the hymns are chanted in a sad tune. Everyday, we have 5 Nighttime Hours and 5 Daytime Hours (first, third, sixth, ninth, and eleventh).
- The psalms are full of prophecies about the whole life of our Lord, from His incarnation to ascension. Since the Holy Week only commemorates our Lord's passions, the daily doxology of the Holy Week replaces the 12 psalms that are usually read in each hour of the Agpeya.



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Father Mena Fam



Christ is risen
Indeed He is risen



Dear Friends

You are in my thoughts & prayers. I pray for you to be blessed beyond measure. Your contributions are so encouraging. You keep our church going. Thank you! Love, Fresno Coptic Orthodox Church

April 2011 Newsletter

Easter Symbols

1- Easter eggs & baby chicks: Eggs and chicks symbolize new life. Eggs have been a symbol of spring since ancient times. An egg also is a symbol of the rock tomb out of which Christ emerged when he arose again. The chick, hatching out of the egg, symbolizes new life or re-birth.

2- Easter bunny: The rabbit was a symbol of abundant new life in ancient times, and reminds us of spring and new life.

3- Easter Lilies: The white blossoms symbolize the purity of Jesus. Lilies, emerging from the earth in the spring, also symbolize new life and the resurrection of Christ.

4- The lamb: This represents Jesus, "The Lamb of God".

5- The Butterfly is one of the significant symbols of Easter. Its whole life cycle is meant to symbolize the life of Jesus Christ. The first stage is the caterpillar, which stands for His life on Earth. The second phase begins from the cocoon stage, portraying the crucifixion and burial of Jesus. The third and final stage is the butterfly, representing His raising from the dead in a glorified body and peace.



GOD Said NO

- I asked God to take away my habit. God said, "No. It is not for me to take away, but for you to give it up."

- I asked God to make my handicapped child whole. God said, "No. His spirit is whole, his body is only temporary."

- I asked God to grant me patience. God said, "No. Patience is a byproduct of tribulations, it isn't granted, it is learned."

- I asked God to give me happiness. God said, "No. I give you blessings; Happiness is up to you."

- I asked God to spare me pain. God said, "No. Suffering draws you apart from the worldly cares and brings you closer to me."

- I asked God to make my spirit grow. God said, "No. You must grow on your own, but I will prune you to make you fruitful."

- I asked God to help me LOVE others as much as He loves me. God said, "Finally you have the idea."



The Holy Week (Pascha)

- During this week, the Coptic Orthodox Church follows the footsteps of our Lord starting from the entrance into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday until His Resurrection on the following Sunday. The Lord spent Monday and Tuesday in the temple, teaching about the kingdom of heaven. On Monday, our Lord went back to Jerusalem after He spent the night in Bethany. On the way to Jerusalem, He condemned the fig tree, a symbol of Israel, who lost her fruitfulness.

- On Wednesday, Judas Iscariot betrayed the Lord for 30 pieces of silver. On the same day, a woman poured a flask of very expensive oil of spikenard on our Lord's head.

- On Thursday, our Lord instituted the sacrament of the Eucharist. During that night, He went to Gethsemane and prayed. He was arrested. In that night, Peter denied Him 3 times and wept when he remembered what Jesus had said to him (Mark 14:72).

- On Friday, our Lord was presented to Pilate, crucified, died, and was buried.

- From Friday night to Saturday morning, the Church celebrates the night of Apocalypse. It represents the passing from death to life.



Beautiful Short Phrases:

- Give God what's right..... Not what's left.

- Man's way leads to a hopeless end.....God's way leads to an endless hope.

- A lot of kneeling will keep you in good standing.

- He who kneels before God can stand before anyone.

- In the sentence of life, the devil may be a comma, but never let him be the period.

- Don't put a question mark where God puts a period.



"O heavenly Easter! ... By you the darkness of death has been destroyed and life poured out on every creature, the gates of heaven have been opened, God has shown Himself as man and humanity has ascended and become God! Thanks to you the gates of hell have been shattered ... Thanks to you the great banqueting hall is full for the marriage feast, all the guests are wearing a wedding garment and no one, having no garment, will be cast out. Thanks to you the fire of love is burning in all, in spirit and body, fed by the very oil of Christ." - Hippolytus



Notes from God

- Let's meet @ my house Sunday before the Game.

- We Need To Talk.

- My way is the Highway.

- Need directions?

- You think it's hot here?

- Need a marriage counselor? I'm available.



We, the believers, praise and worship the Word, one in eternity with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation, for He agreed and accepted to go up on the cross, and to suffer death in the flesh, and to raise those who died, by His glorious resurrection.



If you want to be happy ... don't try to make yourself happy ... try to make the people around you happy.