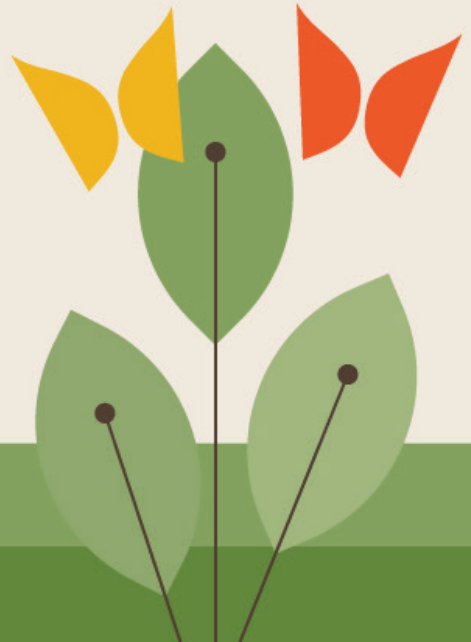
WHY DOES EASTER MATTER?

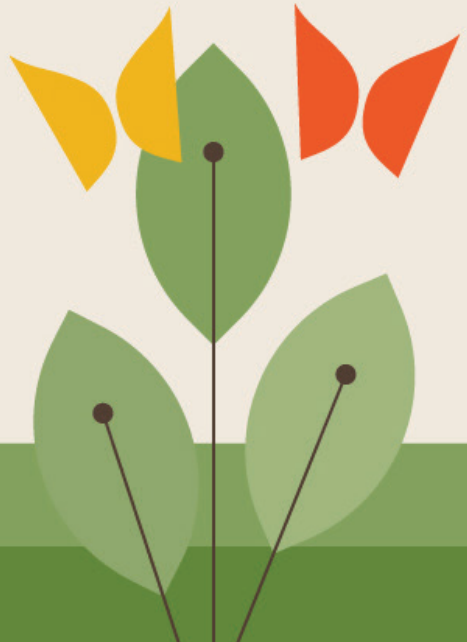


IS EASTER RELEVANT?

IS EASTER RELEVANT?

Many families celebrate Easter by bringing their children to an Easter egg hunt at a local park or church. Chocolate bunnies and Easter egg baskets are displayed and given away. People still take time to enjoy this holiday that corresponds with the beginning of spring.

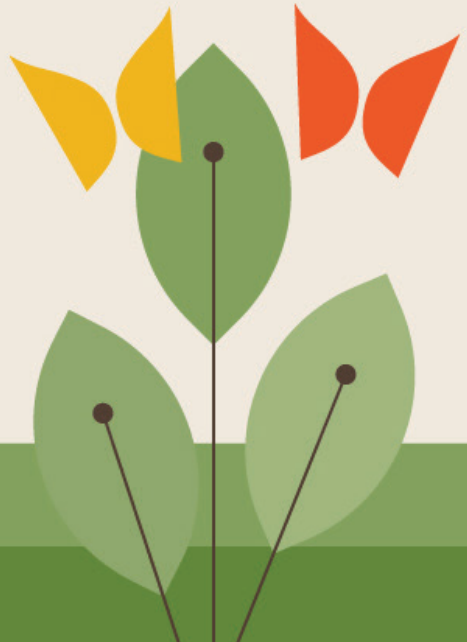
But, why?



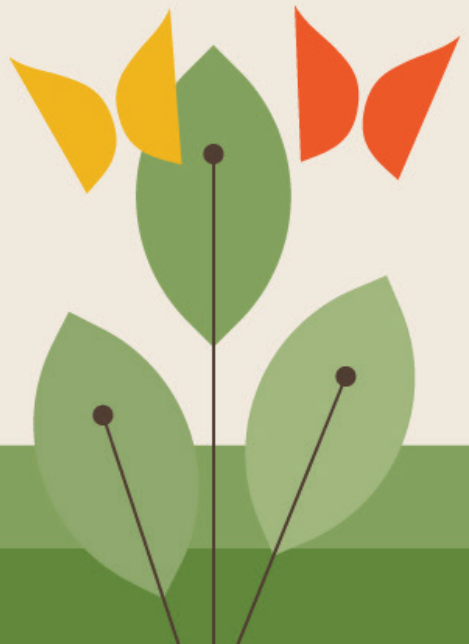
WHAT IS EASTER?

On the first Sunday after the first full moon following the spring equinox, Christians recognize the death and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ that took place around two thousand years ago.

It is *the* most important and significant event in Christianity.



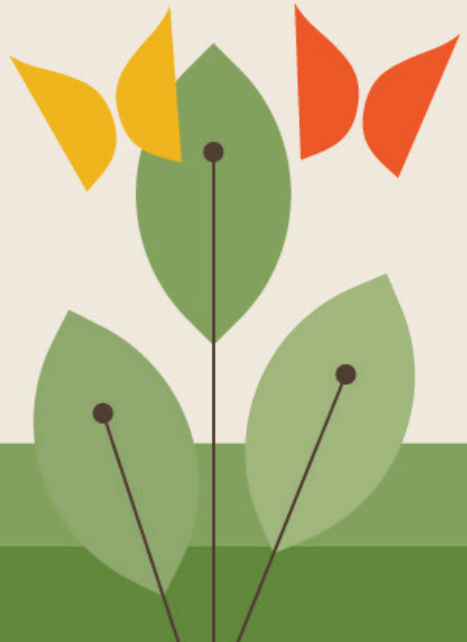
SO, WHY IS EASTER IMPORTANT?



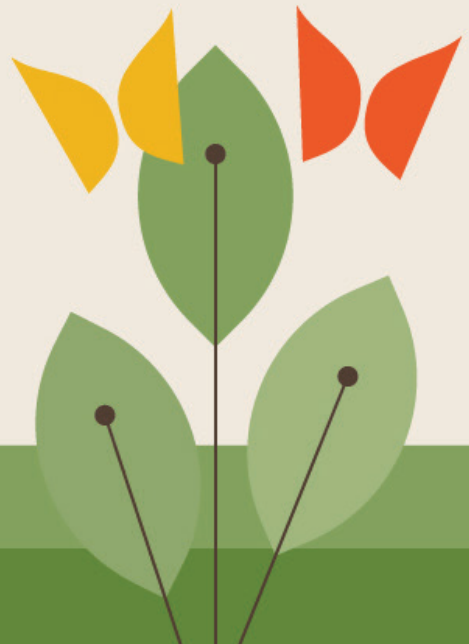
THE MEANING OF EASTER

The meaning of Easter rests upon God's declaration of acceptance and victory.

Its message starts with what happened on the cross. God declared to the world that he **accepted** Jesus' perfect life and sacrificial death as the full payment for the sins of the world. Jesus took his final breath and said, "It is finished."



EASTER IS SIGNIFICANT.



BECAUSE...



WHY IS EASTER SIGNIFICANT?

Jesus's lifeless body was placed in a sealed tomb and three days later Jesus rose from the dead. Easter points to the empty tomb and God's declaration of victory over death and sin through Jesus' resurrection.

God fully delivered on his promises.



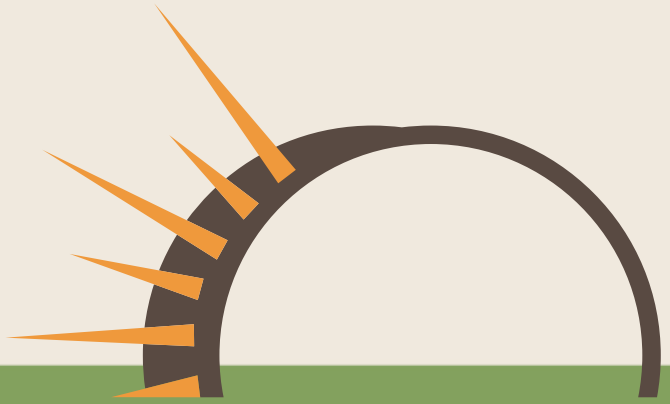
WHAT DOES JESUS' RESURRECTION MEAN?

If Jesus Christ did not rise from the dead, then the Christian faith is useless and futile.

His resurrection conquered death so that we may live. Jesus declared himself to the world:

I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die.

JOHN 11:25-26



WHY JESUS' RESURRECTION MATTERS?

The resurrection means that God can keep his promises. You can fully place your trust in him.

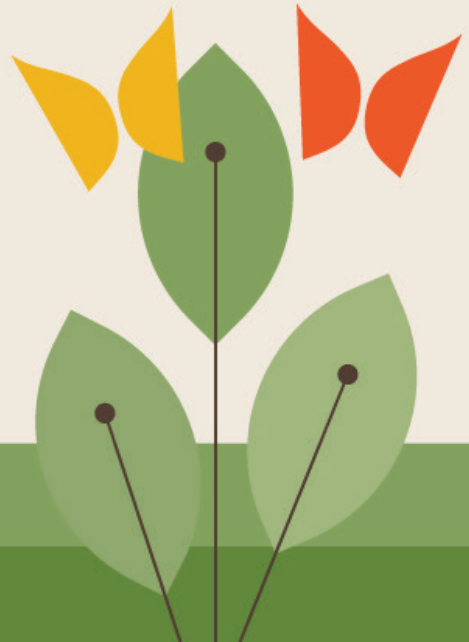
Jesus' resurrection guarantees God's declaration of victory over death and sin.

Faith receives the full benefit – right now – of what Christ has done for you.



WHAT BENEFITS DO I RECEIVE?

3 Easter Promises God Gives to Us



PROMISE #1

GOD PROMISES TO DELIVER EVEN WHEN WE DON'T UNDERSTAND.

There is a mountain of evidence to demonstrate Jesus' resurrection to be a historical fact. It's a miracle. God delivered on his promise.

God promises to deliver on things far beyond our understanding. Believing in him receives the full benefit of what God has done for us. This is God's Easter promise.

1 Corinthians 15:51, 1 Corinthians 1:18-25, Romans 10:17

PROMISE #2

GOD PROMISES TO NOT PUT US TO SHAME.

Anyone who believes in God's Easter promises will never be put to shame.

Heaven is a certainty because God fully accepts us in Christ. The message of the empty tomb is God fulfilling his promise. Others may betray or reject us, but by trusting in Christ, God will never reject us.

Heaven is not a place for those who are good enough, because no one is. But Christ died for us. He lives for us. Perfectly. Trusting completely in him receives the full benefit of certain hope and assurance that heaven is ours. That is God's Easter promise.

Romans 10:11, John 19:30, John 14:2,3

PROMISE #3

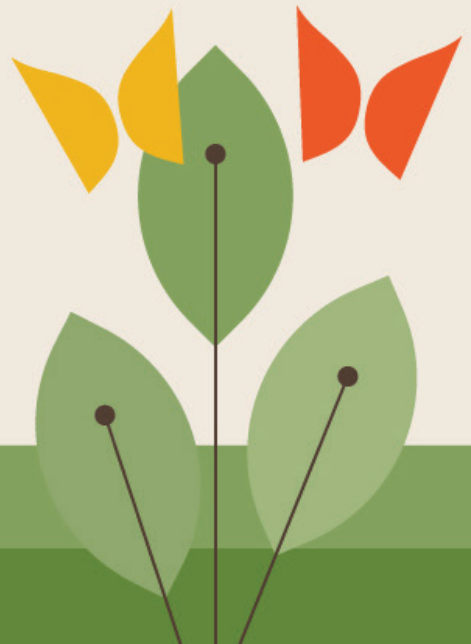
HE PROMISES BECAUSE HE LIVES WE ALSO WILL LIVE.

Easter promises a better tomorrow when life today becomes overwhelming or pointless.

Jesus tells us, “Because I live, you also will live.” Even though we sin, this Easter promise raises our eyes beyond the pain of this life and sees what lies beyond is perfect and forever. We are already forgiven in Christ. Faith receives the full benefits today from Christ’s work for us with a renewed sense of purpose and certain hope when life around us appears senseless.

John 14:19

WHY DOES EASTER MATTER?



Look to the empty tomb. He rose!



Easter matters because it means sins are forgiven
and the hope of eternal life is real.

CELEBRATE EASTER WITH US

Ascension
Lutheran Church

Sunday, April 9
Easter Service • 10:30 AM
Easter Breakfast • 9 AM

Ascension Lutheran Church
4768 Union Deposit Rd • Harrisburg, Pennsylvania



DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT GOD?

How can we trust the death and resurrection of Christ to be true? How can a loving God allow evil to exist? Why do bad things happen to good people?

We invite you to come and ask our pastor. Receive the freedom to ask anything about Jesus or Easter and you will not be judged.

pastorben@ascensionharrisburg.com •
ascensionharrisburg.com • 717-652-8285

