# Easter

**He is not here: for He is risen, as He said.**

**Come, see the place where the Lord lay.**

**(St. Matthew 28:6)**

**Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give you will never thirst;**

**the water that I shall give him will become in him
a spring of water welling up to eternal life.**

***(St. John 4:14)***

**Verily, verily, I say unto you,**

**The hour is coming, and now is,**

**when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God:**

**and they that hear shall live.**

***(St. John 5:25)***

**Why seek ye the living among the dead?**

**He is not here, but is risen.**

**(St. Luke 24: 5-6)**

**Behold, I show you a mystery;**

**We shall not all sleep,**

**But we shall all be changed.**

**(1 Corinthians 15:51)**

**And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes;**

**and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor wailing,**

**neither shall there be any more pain;**

**for the former things have passed away.**

***(Revelation 21:4)***

**Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life;**

**He who believes in me, even though he die, he shall live.**

***(St. John 11:25)***

**Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies,**

**it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.**

***(St. John 12:24)***

**Affirmation: “Dear God, I know that I am on an eternal journey. While I don't know the past or future steps of my immortal soul, I know that I am ever traveling safely within You. There is no place that I can go where You are not, and my heart sings with joy and praise that I am part of You.” *(Richard & Mary-Alice Jafolla, in The Quest)***

**Archbishop Trench tells how, in 1690, an agave plant was brought over and planted in the gardens of Hampton Court Palace by Queen Mary. The last ten years of the seventeenth century passed, and the plant gave no sign of flowering. The whole of the eighteenth century passed, and never a bud did the plant put forth. Eighty-eight years of the nineteenth century passed, and still no sign of a flower. But in 1889 the venerable plant burst into blossom. *(Paul Lee Tan, in Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations, p. 1145)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*Man: “Whatcha doin’, Earl?” Earl: “Hiding Easter eggs.” Man: “Getting ready for an Easter egg hunt, huh?” Earl: “Yup.” Man: “I’ll bet your grandson will enjoy that.” Earl: “Grandson? Who said anything about my grandson? That’s the nice thing about being my age. I can hide my own Easter eggs.” *(Brian Crane, in Pickles comic strip)***

**Dad: “What are you doing up here?” Mom: “Shhhh! I’d hiding Jeremy’s Easter basket.” Dad: “His Easter basket? Connie, the boy is fifteen years old!” Mom: “This is an age-appropriate Easter basket. See? Instead of a chocolate bunny, I put in a CD. Then I put in some burger coupons instead of jelly beans, and a piece of software instead of those marshmallow chicks he used to love.” Dad: “That was really a neat idea!” Mom: “I think he’ll appreciate the effort.” After finding his Easter basket, Jeremy says to himself: “Shoot! No candy!” *(Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman, in Zits comic strip)***

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**Resurrection is always a mystery. It is always a miracle. It is always the creative act of the Eternal Word. Because that Word is spoken now, in the present, in terms of what we call the common circumstances of life, there can be nobody who at some time or other has not thus been raised from the dead. But more often than not we do not recognize resurrection when it comes to us. The presence of the Eternal Word is unnoticed, and evidenced only in the new life made available. *(H. A. Williams, in True Resurrection)***

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**How animals react to temperature extremes:**

**Frogs – frozen two weeks, survived**

**Garter snakes – frozen one day, survived**

**Box turtles – frozen two days, survived. *(World Features Syndicate)***

**Elizabeth: “Hey, it looks like the Easter bunny brought us some great stuff!” April: “Yah! You don’t want yours, do you? Why don’t you eat your rabbit, Elizabeth?” Elizabeth: “I can’t. Look at how cute he is!” April: “If you bust his ears off, he won’t be so cute anymore! Then, you bite off the tail an’ eat the feet. Sort of one at a time.” Elizabeth: “He’s got little pink eyes!” April: “They’re candy icing, see? They pop right off!” Elizabeth: “April, I thought you loved animals!” April: “I do! ‘Specially the chocolate ones!” (Lynn Johnston, in For Better or For Worse comic strip)**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*The doctors couldn't do anything more for Bertha, my elderly neighbor. She was in pain and no longer able to care for herself. “I'm ready,” she told me. “Why won't the Lord take me home with him?” I stood at her door, watching the paramedics carry her to the ambulance for another emergency trip to the hospital. That night Bertha died. The following week I was out in my garden. I missed my neighbor, and thought about her every day. It seemed strange not to be checking in on her. Suddenly I heard my phone ringing, but as I reached the door, my answering machine clicked on, taking a message. Inside I pressed the play button and was surprised to hear some old messages I had neglected to erase. I went to the sink to wash my hands as the tape ran through. All at once I heard a familiar voice. “Eileen, this is Bertha.” She had called me when she got out of the hospital two weeks before. “I just wanted you to know,” she said. “I'm home.” And so she was. (Eileen Timothy, in Guideposts magazine)**

**Easter around the world: Bulgaria – throw, rather than hide, eggs; Italy – use olive, not palm branches, on Palm Sunday; Ireland – dance in streets on Easter Sunday; Czech Republic – serve plum brandy on Easter Monday; Egypt -- Easter service Saturday night until 4 a.m. Sunday. *(***[***www.easterbunnys.net***](http://www.easterbunnys.net/)***)***

**An artist, at first only painfully aware of an utter emptiness and impotence, finds his imagination gradually stirred into life, and discovers a vision which takes control of him and which he feels not only able but compelled to express. That is resurrection. *(H. A. Williams, in True Resurrection)***

**A rare phenomenon under way at Australia’s largest and driest lake is drawing nature lovers from around the world. They’re hoping to catch glimpses of species than can gather there as infrequently as only once in a generation. Recent heavy rains are flowing into Lake Eyre, usually just a 3,740-square-mile expanse of crusty white salt that has filled only four times in the past 150 years. Millions of tiny eggs laid there by various marine species years ago before the lake last receded have begun to hatch. *(Earthweek, as it appeared in the Rocky Mountain News, April 10, 2007)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*Eight-million-year- old bacteria have been revived from Antarctic ice. (Don Voorhees, in The Essential Book of Useless Information, p. 139)**

**Bacteria 10,000 years old, found in ice at McMurdo Station in the Antarctic in 1974, revived -- and reproduced. (Ripley's Believe It or Not!)**

**Bacteria returns from the dead: Ancient bacteria that had been frozen for 32,000 years came to life as soon as they were thawed, say NASA researchers. The bacteria, a newly discovered species called Carnobacterium pleistocenium, were recovered from the side of a tunnel dug through Pleistocene Era ice in central Alaska. “The instant the ice melted, they started swimming,” researcher Richard Hoover tells Reuters. “They were alive.” While other microbes have been found in frigid environments, they were located in pockets of liquid water. Carnobacterium pleistocenium is the first species to be resuscitated from ancient ice. Because the microbes would not have been able to divide during the time they were locked in ice, the thawed-out specimens must be 32,000 years old – the time the Alaskan pond was last in liquid form. The resilience of the bacteria suggests that life could possibly survive in places like the glaciers of Mars and the icy crust of Jupiter’s moon Europa. *(The Week magazine, March 18, 2005)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*Preacher: “Brother Fester, I just dropped by to invite you to our Easter banquet.” Brother Fester: “Easter was a month ago.” Preacher: “I know, but since you never come anyway, I didn’t see any reason to be prompt.” *(Jerry Bittle, in Geech comic strip)***

**Seminary Professor Robert Wood tells of an experience that symbolizes most clearly the meaning of Easter in our lives. He was invited by a former student to accompany him to the local minimum-security prison for a baptism. Wood reluctantly agreed. The baptism turned out to be a real joy. Wood says, “It was as close to a New Testament experience as perhaps I shall ever have.” A guard escorted the prisoner from behind a fence that was topped with razor wire. There were just the three of them, with the guard looking curiously on. Wood writes: “The barefoot prisoner stepped into a wooden box that had been lined with plastic sheet and filled with water. It looked like a large coffin, and rightly so. This was no warmed and tiled First Baptist bath, with its painted River Jordan winding pleasantly into the distance. This was a place of death: watery chaos from which God graciously made the world and into which, in rightful wrath, he almost returned it. Pronouncing the Trinitarian formula, the pastor lowered the new Christian down into the liquid grave to be buried with Christ and then raised him up to eternal life. Though the water was cold, the man was not eager to get out. Instead, he stood there, weeping for joy. When at last he left the baptismal box, I thought he would hurry away to change into something dry. I was mistaken.” The prisoner, the newborn Christian, told them, “I want to wear these clothes as long as I can. In fact, I wish I never had to take a shower again.” They walked to the nearby tables and sat quietly in the Carolina sun, hearing this new Christian explain why his baptismal burial was too good to dry off. “I'm now a free man. I am not impatient to leave prison because this wire can't shackle my soul. I know that I deserved to come here, to pay for what I did. But I also learned here that Someone else has paid for all my crimes.” So it is – Easter is the promise that there is new life that frees us from whatever bondage that would hold us down, regardless of where we find ourselves. May you know this Easter joy within you this Easter season. (Rev. Robert E. Hunter)**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*Grandpa: “What have you got there, son?” Nelson: “My Easter basket.” Grandpa: “Oh, have you been on an Easter egg hunt?” Nelson: “Yeah!” Grandpa: “Ahh, so the Easter bunny came and laid eggs all over the yard. What’re you going to do with them?” Nelson: “Eat them!” Grandpa: “Wow, really? You’d eat something that came out of a rabbit? I hope you’re at least going to wash them. Look at the size of these eggs! Hard to believe they came out of a little bunny, huh? Boy, that must’ve hurt! Come to think of it, I thought I heard something screaming in pain in the garden this morning.” Grandma: “Earl, why do you have Nelson’s Easter basket?” Grandpa: “He said he didn’t want it.” (Brian Crane, in Pickles comic strip)**

**Every Easter when I was a child, the Easter Bunny left a basket of candy and eggs just outside our front door. But one year when I ran out to see what he’d left, there was nothing there. I came crying into the house and told my mother what had happened. “Oh, my gosh!” she said. “I forgot to put it out!” (Ruth Glunt, in Reminisce magazine)**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*To keep the guests occupied before Thanksgiving dinner, my aunt popped a Batman video into the VCR. Almost two hours later, everyone was hungry and had had enough of the flick. “This movie sure is dragging on,” my uncle moaned. “Just how long is it?” “Dad,” his son said, “why do you think they call it Batman FOREVER?” (Brandy Hall, in Reader’s Digest)**

**Eileen Luby of Seattle, Washington says one of the funniest Easter memories she can recall happened back in `1949. “On the night before Easter, our 4-year-old son refused to go to bed. No amount of coaxing could persuade him to turn in for the night,” Eileen relates. When I asked why, he said, “I want to stay up and watch Santa Claus lay all those eggs!” (Reminisce magazine)**

**Billy: “The year’s best-tastin’ mornings are Easter and the day after Halloween!” Dolly: “We better wash Jeffy’s face before church.” Jeffy: “Why did the Easter bunny give each of us a new toothbrush?” Billy: “Happy Easter eggs!” (Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)**

**First animal: “I’m writing a book about my life.” Second animal: “How’s it going?” First animal: “It’s fun. I hope it never ends.” *(Patrick McDonnell, in Mutts comic strip)***

**Why is the "Easter bunny" sometimes a part of Easter celebrations? Like the egg, the rabbit has also been a symbol of fertility, and comes from ancient celebrations of spring and Anglo-Saxon mythology. In a blend of Christian and other traditions, the custom of a rabbit (or Easter bunny) leaving colored eggs in the baskets of children was brought to America by German immigrants in the late 19th century. *(John McCollister, in The Christian Book of Why)***

**The creosote bush, a classic desert plant, can drop its leaves to reduce water loss and, during the worst droughts, it even dies back to the ground. Then, when it finally rains, the plant revives and flourishes--like the mythological phoenix. (Christopher L. Helms, in The Sonoran Desert , p. 8)**

**Arthur Brisbane once pictured a crowd of grieving caterpillars carrying the corpse of a cocoon to its final resting place. The poor, distressed caterpillars, clad in black raiment, were weeping, and all the while the beautiful butterfly fluttered happily above the muck and mire of earth, forever freed from its earthly shell. Needless to say, Brisbane had the average orthodox funeral in mind and sought to convey the idea that when our loved ones pass, it is foolish to remember only the cocoon and concentrate our attention on the remains, while forgetting the bright butterfly. (Sanctuary Magazine)**

**In AD 325, Constantine called a meeting of Christian bishops at Nicea to decide what a Christian was, and what Christians should believe. He changed the time of the Resurrection to coincide with the festival celebrating the death and resurrection of the pagan god Attis. This celebration was held annually from March 22 to 25. Christians adopted the actual date, March 25, as the anniversary of the passion. *(Noel Botham, in The Amazing Book of Useless Information, p. 17)***

**First man: “I’m going to ask him.” Second man: “No, you’re not!” First man: “Why not?” Second man: “Because I’ve already told you there’s no such thing as the Easter bunny!” First man: “Then where do Easter eggs come from?” Second man: “What do you think?” First man: “I think Merle believes in the Easter chicken.” *(Jerry Bittle, in Geech comic strip)***

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**Persians first began using colored eggs to celebrate spring in 3000 B.C., and thirteenth century Macedonians were the first Christians on record to use colored eggs in Easter celebrations. Crusaders returning from the Middle East spread the custom of coloring eggs, and Europeans began to use them to celebrate Easter and other warm-weather holidays. *(Noel Botham, in The Amazing Book of Useless Information, p. 173)***

A farmer pulls a prank on Easter Sunday. After the egg hunt, he sneaks into the chicken coop and replaces every white egg with a brightly colored one. Minutes later, the rooster walks in. He spots the colored eggs, then storms out and beats up the peacock. *(Adam Joshua Smargon, in Reader’s Digest)*

**What is one of the legends, base loosely on a biblical passage, that accounts for the coloring of Easter eggs? According to a folk tale, Simon of Cyrene, who helped Jesus carry the Cross, was an egg merchant. When Simon returned from Calvary, all the eggs he was to sell that day had miraculously acquired a variety of colors and designs. *(Catholic Digest)***

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**Two little neighbor girls about the same age, one Christian and one Jewish, were constant companions. After one Easter holiday, the grandfather of the Christian girl asked her what her friend had received for Easter. The girl looked at her grandfather in surprise, and said, “But Grandpa, you should know that Becky is Jewish and she wouldn’t get anything for Easter.” Then she went on to explain patiently, “You see, I’m Easter and she’s Passover. I’m Christian and she’s Hanukkah.” Then with a big smile, she added, “but I’m really glad that both of us are Halloween.” *(Buddy Westbrook in Loyal Jones, The Preacher’s Joke Book)***

**Today Helen Ansley is a dynamic woman in her nineties. She was one of the principals in a recent exploratory project, Conscious Living/Conscious Dying, funded by the Institute of Noetic Sciences in California. “I see life as the Ultimate Finishing School,” she proclaims, “with a full curriculum that teaches us Conscious Living, so that we may graduate -- with honors -- with Conscious Death.” *(Dana Voght, in Unity magazine, June, 1993)***

**Every ending is a new beginning. Once we get the feel of a continuity of life and realize there is no death, then we are able to overcome the fear of death. The resurrection personified in Jesus’ experience helps us to realize that when this experience on earth is ended, there is in reality no end at all. Just as a high note of an octave is the low note of the next octave, so is the beginning of a new experience. *(Jim Ockley)***

**Easter customs are associated with eggs. In northwestern, Germany, they have “egg duels,” which are called “Eier-Spacken.” Two men face with other, holding hard boiled eggs by the round ends. The idea is to stab the other one’s eggs with the pointed end of your egg. The winner: the one who cracked the most eggs. The prize: all the cracked eggs! *(Arkady Leokum, in The Curious Book, p. 173)***

**What we hanker after is a sign from heaven which cannot be spoken against, an experience in which we are lifted out of the tears and sweat and dirt of our humanity into a serene empyrean where our ordinary daily life is left far behind and can be forgotten. But resurrection as a present miracle does not deliver us from the unevenness and turmoil and fragmentariness of being human. The miracle is to be found precisely within the daily routine of our lives. Resurrection occurs to us as we are, and its coming is generally quiet and unobtrusive and we may hardly be aware of its creative power. It is often only later that we realize that in some way or other we have been raised to newness of life, and so have heard the voice of the Eternal Word. *(H. A. Williams, in True Resurrection)***

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**My neighbor says she was born on March 27, 1932, on Easter Sunday, and there won't be another March 27 Easter until next year, 2005. That's 73 years. Is she right? -- (Gene, Lakewood, Colorado) She knows what she's talking about. The Easter date formula is a bit complicated --it's the first Sunday after the first full moon following the first day of spring -- and it results in most Easters falling in April. The nearest March 27 Easter before her birth was in 1921; after 2005, the next one will fall in 2016. *(Rocky Mountain News)***

**How Is the Date of Easter Determined? Would you believe that the date of Easter is related to the full Moon? Specifically, Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday after the paschal full Moon on or just after the vernal equinox. For simplicity, the equinox is considered to be March 21 (a fixed spring date set by the Church), although in astronomy, it's not always that day. The paschal full Moon always falls on the 14th day of a lunar month; because ancient calculations (made in AD 325) did not take into account certain lunar motions, it may differ from the actual full Moon date by a day or so. Easter always falls on a Sunday between March 22 and April 25. *(The Old Farmer's Almanac, 2021)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*A Sunday School child’s definition of Easter: “You get eggs. And you remember God,” says Mary Louise Duggard, 8. “It’s the day that God woke up,” says Jamila Young-Hogan. “It’s when Jesus got alive,” says Amanda Ward, 7. (Duncan/Akers, in Amusing Grace)**

**Jeffrey Bada of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, California, estimates that DNA could survive intact in bone for at most a few thousand years in temperate climates, and perhaps 100,000 years in cold climates like Alaska or Antarctica. The exception to this rule, he says, is DNA from insects preserved in amber. Bada found virtually no amino-acid degradation in any of the amber specimens he studied, even some that were 130 million years old. “Amber is just a great medium for preserving stuff,” Bada says. “It's waterproof, and when you get water out of a system, you have very little degradation.” *(Discover magazine)***

**When eating a chocolate bunny, 76 percent of people eat the ears first. *(National Confectioners Association, 2005)***

**If you would have the kernel, you must break the shell. (Meister Eckhart)**

**The material body and mind are temporal, but the real man is spiritual and eternal. The identity of the real man is not lost, but found through this explanation; for the conscious infinitude of existence and of all identity is thereby discerned and remains unchanged. *(Mary Baker Eddy, in Science and Health)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*Early Christians used red-colored eggs to symbolize the Resurrection. *(Noel Botham, in The Amazing Book of Useless Information, p. 16)***

**In Switzerland, it's not the rabbit but the cuckoo that brings the Easter eggs. A lot of people in Northern Italy give their youngsters Easter rabbits made not of chocolate but of cheese. (L. M. Boyd)**

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**The subject line on the e-mail sent by our campus ministry after Easter read "He is risen!" But the next day, we received a rather startling message intended to clear up a minor typo in the first e-mail. The subject line now read "He is risen -- correction." *(Seth Breunig, in Reader's Digest)***

**Nothing is dead. Men feign themselves dead, endure funerals and mournful obituaries, and there they stand, looking out the window, sound and well in some new disguise. *(Ralph Waldo Emerson)***

**At Christmastime we are reminded that Christmas is every day that we let the Christ awareness come into our hearts. I believe this. I also believe that Easter can be every day that we transcend our problems. The Christ within us is continually being resurrected, lifting us up out of the death of darkness and despair into the glorious Light of spiritual rebirth. (Cornelia Addington)**

**Pronounced extinct, but not:**

**- Ivory-billed woodpecker -- found 60 years after thought extinct
- Lord Howe Island stick insect -- found 80 years after thought extinct**

**- Jurassic Wollemi pine -- found 200 million years after thought extinct. *(World Features Syndicate)***

**Federal wildlife biologists announced on November 6, 1981, that a black-footed ferret, a mammal feared extinct, had been discovered alive and well and living in Wyoming. The 2 ¼ pound male, found at home in a prairie dog burrow, was fitted with a radio collar and released. By 2006, captive breeding and reintroduction helped the wild population rebound to some 700 animals in five Western states. *(Alison McLean, in Smithsonian magazine)***

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**For Christians Easter is the supreme festival. Church bells ring. Hymns of triumphant gladness are the order of the day. Christ is risen! It is a proclamation about mankind, about the world. All that separates and injures and destroys has been overcome by what unites and heals and creates. Death is swallowed up by life. It is a magnificently compelling vision. *(H. A. Williams, in True Resurrection)***

**The festival of the Christian church commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is not always held on the same date. In A.D. 325 the church council of Nicea decided that it should be celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon on or after the vernal equinox of March 21. Easter can come as early as March 22 or as late as April 25. Many Easter customs come from the Old World. The white lily, the symbol of the resurrection, is the special Easter flower. Rabbits and colored eggs have come from pagan antiquity as symbols of new life. Easter egg rolling, a custom of European origin, has become a tradition on the lawn of the White House in Washington, D.C. *(Judy Mackenzie and David Milster, in South of the Lake Messenger*)**

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**How old is the species of fish known as the coelacanth? This ancient creature existed 350 million years ago. Scientists had believed that the fish became extinct 60 million years ago, until a living specimen was caught in the Indian Ocean off southern Africa in 1938. *(Barbara Berliner, in The Book of Answers, p. 25)***

**Several months later I traveled home once more, this time for dad's funeral. I walked into his bedroom and found his fishing rod in the corner, rigged with a brand-new Eagle Claw and two tiny split shot. My mother came in and saw me holding it. “He had it all ready for another trip,” she said. “He thought maybe the two of you could go fishing together one more time.” “We will, old man. We will.” (Jim Berlin, in Outdoor Life)**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*Helga: “Every year it’s the same thing! I ask you for a little help, and you fail miserably!! I can’t trust you to do anything!! You have no talent! I’ll do it myself!” Hagar: “Darn! I flunked Easter egg coloring again this year!” (Dik Browne, in Hagar the Horrible comic strip)**

**What Folklore Is Associated with Easter? Eggs, traditionally forbidden during Lent, symbolize new life. The Easter Bunny recalls the hare, the Egyptian symbol of fertility. *(The Old Farmer's Almanac, 2021)***

**Monk: “Sorry, Sire, the service just ended.” Sire: “Oh-no! The most important ecclesiastical day of the year!” Monk: “It’s okay, come let us walk together. What does Easter mean to you, Sire?” Sire: “The miracle of new life, spring flowers, baby chicks, baskets of colored eggs and chocolate! Lots and lots of chocolate.” Monk: “Aren’t you forgetting something?” Sire: “God forgive me, I forgot all about the Easter bunny.” *(Parker and Hart, in The Wizard of Id comic strip)***

**I know it’s 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter, but what’s the formula for when they occur? We’ve answered this before, but it’s a good question because the formula’s a surprise. Easter’s date changes because it’s based on the lunar calendar. Western Christians celebrate Easter on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the first day of spring. That means it can occur anytime between March 22 and April 25. *(Rocky Mountain News)***

**What does Easter mean to YOU? It can mean freedom from the mistakes of the past, freedom to rise into a new life; freedom to do, to be; freedom to glorify God. It can mean freedom from your prejudices and prejudgments; freedom from the old hates and resentments that have held you in bondage; it can mean the rising up into a new level of consciousness. In you the desert can blossom as the rose. *(Jack & Cornelia Addington)***

**“Think of the lilies,” Jesus said. They seem to die, but are not dead. And rise from the entombing earth in glorious garments of rebirth. The Lily of His love, likewise, though we entomb it, yet will rise through our encumbering bars and bring us to a glorious blossoming. (James Dillet Freeman)**

**At a funeral I heard a minister say, “I cannot tell you anything about the life to come. I cannot prove it to you, for I have never been there. But I have a Friend who has, and I trust that Friend.” That sums it all up. We believe in the resurrection of the body and the life of the world to come because of the testimony of that friend, Jesus Christ. My hope of life after death, and a great and blessed life, depends altogether upon faith in that friend, Jesus Christ. When we turn our faces toward the unseen world we walk by faith and not by sight. *(Clarence E. MacCartney’s Illustrations, p. 157)***

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**The Alaskan wood frog survives long, bitter Arctic winters by turning into a “frogsicle”: It becomes frozen solid, and for several months its heart stop beating and it doesn’t draw a single breath. When the weather warms, the frog miraculously thaws and comes back to life. *(Harry Bright & Harlan Briscoe, in So, Now You Know, p. 141)***

**Wood frogs freeze solid in winter and thaw back to life in spring. *(Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Extraordinary Book of Facts, p. 12)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*The remains of Bredo Morstol have been kept frozen in a shed in Nederland, Colorado, since 1993. His grandson, Trygve Bauge, hopes to revive him one day. 83 tons: Approximate amount of dry ice used to keep Morstol frozen since his body was brought to Nederland. *(Rocky Mountain News, March 10, 2003)***

**But what of resurrection as future, of resurrection as our entry into the life of the world to come? If we have been aware of resurrection in this life, then, and only then, shall we be able or ready to receive the hope of final resurrection after physical death. Resurrection as our final and ultimate future can be known only by those who perceive resurrection with us now, encompassing all we are and do. For only then will it be recognized as a country we have already entered, and in whose light and warmth we have already lived. *(H. A. Williams, in True Resurrection)***

**A garden that never died eventually would weary. Robbed of springtime, unacquainted with the extraordinary perfume that rises from the soil after it's had its rest, the garden winter doesn't visit is a dull place. The return every spring of earth’s first freshness would never be kept if not for the frosts and rot and ripe deaths of fall. So when I go out from the garden for the last time in autumn, I leave the gate open behind me. *(Michael Pollan, in Second Nature)***

**A young American tourist goes on a guided tour of a creepy old European castle. At the end of the tour the guide asks her how she enjoyed it. She admits to being a bit worried about seeing a ghost in some of the dark cobwebby rooms and passages. “Don't worry,” says the guide, “I've never seen a ghost in all the time I've been here.” “How long is that?” asks the girl. “About 300 years.” *(Rocky Mountain News)***

**Scripture reveals that there is a power that restores to us “the years that the locust hath eaten.” There is a power of resurrection, a power of restoration, regeneration, and renewal, and it is this power within us that the Master came to reveal. He restored to full and complete dignity the woman taken in adultery; he restored to heaven the thief on the cross. What was that restoration and regeneration but a resurrection? The power of resurrection is in the love that flows through us and from us. Life is love, and there is no life separate and apart from love. (Joel S. Goldsmith, in Living Now)**

**William Jennings Bryan describes securing a few grains of wheat when in Cairo that had slumbered thirty centuries in an Egyptian tomb. Upon thinking of the unbroken chain of life of the grain we sow and harvest today, he wrote, “If this invisible germ of life in the grain of wheat can pass unimpaired through three thousand resurrections, I shall not doubt that my soul has power to clothe itself with a new body suited to its new existence when this earthly frame has crumbled to dust.” *(Paul Lee Tan, in Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations, p. 1145)***

**When you see a beautiful butterfly, you don’t grieve over the dead cocoon, nor over the dead shell of a new born chick. No! Both of these experiences indicate the ongoingness of Life. (*Charles Simon)***

**Why do Christians eat hard-boiled eggs on Easter? Early Christians of Mesopotamia were the first to apply this symbol as a visual lesson to the Resurrection of Christ. The actual custom, though, has its roots in folklore. From earliest times, the egg has been a symbol of fertility and immortality. During earlier, pagan rites of spring, many cultures began including the egg as a sign of new life anticipated during planting season. *(John McCollister, in The Christian Book of Why)***

**Church usher: “Happy Easter! May I help you find a seat, Sire?” Sire: “Just make sure I’m not behind some huge hat!” Usher: “How about here?” Sire: “Her hat looks down right deadly.” Usher: “How about here?” Sire: “I’m allergic to artificial flowers.” Usher: “Where are you going, Sire?” Sire: “I’ll be back next week when the Easter bonnet contest is over.” *(Parker & Hart, in The Wizard of Id comic strip)***

**Grandpa: “Aha! I found one!” Nelson: “I found one too! Here’s another!” Dog: “I hate Easter. It’s the one day when other people besides me can eat things they find under the furniture.” *(Brian Crane, in Pickles comic strip)***

**While visiting an elderly parishioner, the minister asked, “Minnie, do you ever think about the hereafter?” “Oh, Pastor,” she replied. “I think about the hereafter almost every day. I go into the bedroom, stand there and say, ‘Now, what am I here after?’ Then I go into kitchen and say, ‘What am I here after?’” *(Laura Willhite, in Country magazine)***

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**Billy says to Dolly: “I hope the Easter Bunny doesn’t help Santa hide our toys all over the backyard.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**After finding an Easter egg hiding in his chair, the Father says to his son: “The Easter bunny really did an outstanding job of hiding the eggs this year!” The son replies: “Let's hope it was this year!” *(Kevin Fagan, in Drabble comic strip)***

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**When I die I want to be buried in Israel. Why? Israel has the highest resurrection rate in the world. *(Interfaith Council of Boulder newsletter)***

**Woman: “If you’re not busy tonight, I could use some help delivering band turkeys.” Man: “I’ve got some reading to do for my classes, but as Mr. Dinkle used to say, ‘Homework can wait. It doesn’t spoil.’” *(Tom Batiuk, in Funky Winkerbean comic strip)***

**An individual finds life less and less rewarding, not on its public and professional side, where he may be very successful, but in its failing to bring in an adequate degree of personal fulfillment. He seems to get less and less of what he values most, although he does not know what that is. He has identified himself with a limited and false portrait which he was successfully sold by an unconscious conviction that limitation means safety. But the supposed claims of safety are emptying his life of content. In the midst of his despair, however, he discovers a broader basis on which to establish himself, and, in spite of the threatening danger, fills up more of his own space, lets himself in for more of what he is, and thus finds a richer, more satisfying life. That is resurrection. *(H. A. Williams, in True Resurrection)***

**Easter is not a day. Easter is an infection. The Resurrected Lord Jesus Christ gets under our skin, suffuses our whole being, opens new perspectives and moves us into new places and new possibilities. *(Rev. Luther Johnson)***

**“Do you know what Easter is?” I asked one girl of five. “Oh, yes,” she replied. “Easter is when Jesus died and they put Him in a tomb with a big rock and then three days later they rolled back the rock and Jesus walked out and He didn’t see His shadow.” Which meant that the Holy Land would have six more weeks of winter. *(Bill Cosby, in Kids Say the Darndest Things, p. 19)***

**Easter Island is called that because it was discovered on Easter Sunday. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Congressman Morris Udall tells this story about what happened in the Kremlin when Khrushchev died: “Brezhnev and other Communist leader wanted to get Khrushchev's body out of the country. So they called President Nixon to see if they could bury it in the United States. Nixon said he couldn't give them permission because he would receive too much criticism from the American people. Brezhnev called Prime Minister Heath of England and got a similar turndown. Finally, he called Prime Minister Golda Meir of Israel. Meir said she would help. If the Russians came in the middle of the night, they could bury the body in a remote spot. ‘However,' Meir added, ‘I must warn you that this country has the world's highest resurrection rate.’” *(Congressional Record)***

**Jellybeans did not become an Easter tradition until the 1930s. They were first made in America by Boston candy maker William Schrafft, who ran advertisements urging people to send jellybeans to soldiers fighting in the Civil War. *(Harry Bright & Harlan Briscoe, in So, Now You Know, p. 84)***

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**Jesus is the great example, not the great exception. That example was to teach us that we can step out of our limiting sepulchers into abundant life any time we choose, no matter how dark the circumstances may seem to be that would hem us in. *(Dr. Delia Sellers)***

**By his resurrection Jesus revealed that life is greater than death and that death is but life's effort to free itself from man's self-imposed limitations. (Divine Science Textbook, p. 126)**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*What happens after death is so unspeakably glorious that our imagination and our feelings do not suffice to form even an approximate conception of it. The dissolution of our time-bound form in eternity brings no loss of meaning. *(Carl G. Jung, in Letters)***

**The world’s largest formula Easter Egg is located in Vegreville, Canada. It measures 25.7 feet long, 18.3 feet wide, stands 31.6 feet high and weighs 5,000 pounds. *(Kids’ Pages)***

**The latest day in the year on which Easter Sunday can fall is April 25th. The earliest is March 22. *(Noel Botham, in The Ultimate Book of Useless Information, p. 171)***

**There is another law of physics called the law of conservation of energy. This law is based on the fact that energy never dies. Energy changes form. The life of that energy – that spirit – may change form, but it eternally is. *(Jim Ockley)***

**Scientists from the New York Botanical Garden and the University of North Carolina discovered leaves that have remained green and intact for more than 15 million years. These leaves, from a Chinese elm called zelkova, which is extinct in North America, were found in eastern Oregon--remarkably preserved in volcanic ash. They were described as appearing almost as if they had been pressed in the pages of a book for only a few weeks. (Isaac Asimov's Book of Facts, p. 179)**

**Large, naked, raw carrots are acceptable as food only to those who lie in hutches eagerly awaiting Easter. (Fran Lebowitz)**

**The kids down on the White House lawn had a good time looking for Easter eggs. They did a great job. I was thinking, well, maybe we should let the kids hunt for Osama bin Laden. (David Letterman)**

**On a lighter but by no means insignificant level, the prisoner of irritating or confining circumstances, the man whose great expectations are belied, the man who is tied to triviality, realizes the humor of his situation, and by his laughter shows that he has risen above what cabins and confines him because he can relish the joke at his own expense. That is resurrection. *(H. A. Williams, in True Resurrection)***

**Why is the lily the Easter flower? The lily -- a tall, fragrant plant with long, pointed leaves -- is the symbol of Easter because its shape resembles a trumpet that heralds Christ's Resurrection. *(John McCollister, in The Christian Book of Why)***

**When Abraham Lincoln was a lawyer, an out-of-town case required him to hire a horse from the local livery stables. Returning the animal, he asked the liveryman whether he kept the horse for funerals. “Certainly not,” said its owner indignantly. “I am glad to hear it,” said Lincoln, “because if you did, the corpse would not get there in time for the resurrection.” *(Clifton Fadiman, in The Little, Brown Book of Anecdotes, p. 356)***

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**Seed of the Oriental lotus -- found in a peat bog in Manchuria and dated at about 1000 years -- produced flowers. (Charles J. Cazeau, in Science Trivia)**

**The Manchurian lotus in the Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, Washington, D.C., was grown from a seed that had lain dormant in the bed of a lake in Manchuria for thousands of years. (Ripley’s Believe It or Not!: Book of Chance, p. 144)**

**Ancient lotus returned to life: Jane Shen-Miller, a plant biologist at the University of California at Los Angeles, has reanimated centuries-old seeds of the sacred lotus. She recovered the seeds from a dry lakebed in China’s Liaoning Province and managed to germinate four of them. Two plants have been growing for two and three years now. Cumulative exposure to low-level radiation in the soil apparently mutated them. Both plants produced abnormal offspring with thin underwater stems and floppy, discolored leaves. But it’s amazing that the seeds germinated at all. Common food grains last only a few years before rotting. “To remain alive, the lotus seeds need to repair damage accumulated over hundreds of years. If we can figure out the lotus’s repair mechanisms and transfer them into crops, we may be able to reduce famine,” says Shen-Miller. (Kathy A. Svitil, in Discover magazine)**

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**Billy says to his Mother: “I really love you, Mommy -- more than chocolate bunny rabbits, more than coconut cream eggs ...” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone but in every leaf of springtime. *(Martin Luther)***

**While driving over one of the country roads in a historic section of Tennessee, we saw an old colored “mammy” approaching us in the distance. We stopped and waited for her to reach us. As she came near, we drew her into a conversation. She readily answered our questions-- "What is your name?” “Where do you live?” “How old are you?" To this question, she made reply in a clear, mellow voice—“Chile, I'se one hundred and sixteen yeahs old.” “Are you sure?” “Yes, I'se quite shuah--I is.” “How long are you going to live, Sylvia?" we asked. Her eyes sparkled, and her lips parted, as she said with a broad smile, “Live? I'se gwine to live fohevah.” Not knowing the extent of her understanding or the nature of her philosophy, we said, “Yes, but how long are you going to live here on the earth?” “Fohevah,” came the quick response, with a positive note of faith behind it. “Yo' see,” she continued, “Ah died once; yes Ah did; Ah died to sin, and Ah don't haf to die no mo’.” (Franklin Fillmore Farrington, in The Second Finding of Christ, p. 292)**

**A married couple find their old relationship, once rich and fulfilling, slowly drying up into no more than an external observance to the point where it seemed impossible that these dry bones should ever live again. Then a new relationship emerges, one that is deeper, more subtle, more satisfying than the old one, with a new quality of life which is inexhaustible because it does not depend on the constant recharging of emotional batteries. That is resurrection. *(H. A. Williams, in True Resurrection)***

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**What does Easter mean to you? To the children of Israel it was the time of the Passover which came to mean the celebration of freedom. The children of Israel were seeking freedom from their bondage. But, they carried with them into the Promised Land many of their old prejudices, the old feelings of bondage and oppression, and so, they were not really free after all. *(Jack & Cornelia Addington)***

**My daughter-in-law Delia was teaching her 5-year-old twins the true meaning of Easter. She asked Rick, “What did they find in the tomb?” She tried to keep the grin off her face when Rick responded, “Candy?” *(Ruth Scherr, in Country magazine)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*The metaphysical meaning of Easter: The awakening and raising to spiritual consciousness of the I AM in man, which has been dead in trespasses and sins and buried in the tomb of Materiality. (Charles Fillmore)**

**One of my most frequent destinations was a peaceful town only two blocks long in the farmlands of southern Minnesota. My spirits never failed to rise when I saw the highway sign: “Hope, 1 mile.” As I was approaching Hope once I saw a monarch butterfly just ahead, flying toward me on a collision course. I watched helplessly as it disappeared into the front of the car. The butterfly was wedged into a crevice along the hood, its wings sticking up over the top, a flutter of orange and black at the lower edge of my vision. I stopped in Hope to remove the butterfly. As least I could lay its body on the grass, or in a bush. But as I lifted the hood the monarch beat its wings, rose up and flew off. I watched the lilting light dance of that born-again butterfly and searched for some explanation. Maybe I shouldn't have been quite so surprised. A monarch's graceful wings, made for annual migrations as far away as Mexico, aren't as fragile as they appear. And I suspect a few aerodynamic principles could adequately explain why it was spared. Still, when I saw the butterfly take to the air in winged testimony to life's resiliency. To my mind, that’s a miracle – and my mind needs all the miracles it can get. *(Carol Howard, in Psychology Today)***

**All mosquito eggs need water to hatch, but some will hatch just a few days after they are laid, others only after freezing through a winter, still others only after drying out. In fact, some eggs laid by the millions at floodwater levels may survive five years on dry land until floodwaters come again to hatch them. *(Richard Conniff, in Reader’s Digest)***

**A guy goes on vacation to the Holy Land with his wife and mother-in-law. Halfway through their trip, the mother-in-law dies. So the guy goes to an undertaker, who explains that they can ship the body home, but it'll cost $5,000. Or they can bury her in the Holy Land for $150. “We'll ship her home,” says the son-in-law. “Are you sure?” asks the undertaker. “That's an awfully big expense. And I can assure you we do a very nice burial here.” “Look,” says the son-in-law, “two thousand years ago they buried a guy here, and three days later he rose from the dead. I just can't take that chance.” *(Jason Tuthill, in Reader's Digest)***

**The sight of his first wild rabbit caused our son Kyle, 5, to bubble. “Mom, it’s a Mother Nature bunny!” *(Barb St. Godard, in Country Woman magazine)***

**Every February, the Philadelphia Meditation Center hosts s screening of the 1993 Bill Murray comedy Groundhog Day. To Buddhists, Murray’s portrayal of a jaded weatherman stuck in an endlessly repeating day illustrates the concept of samsara, the eternal cycle of birth and rebirth. “It’s a very Buddhist movie,” says Ken Klein of the Tibetan Buddhist Center of Philadelphia. *(Philadelphia Inquirer, as it appeared in The Week magazine, February 16, 2007)***

**Grimm: “So this is a mummy exhibit. It says the special wrapping was meant to preserve the insides for eternity. Just like a 7-Eleven burrito.” *(Mike Peters, in Mother Goose & Grimm comic strip)***

**The mystery of reappearing flowers: Adolf Hitler had ordered the complete annihilation of the city of London. The Battle of Britain is history now, yet sometime after it was over, people noticed strange-looking flowers growing up the sides of the huge bomb craters. Curiosity was aroused when no one recognized any of the different varieties. Horticulturists were called in, but even they could not identify any of the flowers. Finally, they went to the natural history department of the British Museum at South Kensington, and there in the library of old manuscripts and rare books they found records of these now extinct varieties – 90 of them! The seeds had been buried for hundreds of years, and were long forgotten as generation after generation covered them up and built the city over them. But the German bombs had resurrected them, and the nitrates in the bombs had fed them and caused them to grow. *(Catholic Digest)***

**The name “Easter” comes from Eostre, an ancient Anglo-Saxon goddess, originally of the dawn. In pagan times the annual spring festival was held in her honor. Some Easter customs have come from this and other pre-Christian spring festivals. Others come from the Passover feast of the Jews, observed in memory of their deliverance from Egypt. *(Judy Mackenzie & David Milster, in South of the Lake Messenger*)**

**Never think you’ve seen the last of anything. (Eudora Welty)**

**If the vision of Easter is soon lost, that may well be because resurrection, at least in Western Christendom, has invariably been described as belonging to another time and place. The typical emphasis has been either upon what happened in the environs of Jerusalem on the third day after Jesus was crucified, or upon what may be in store for us after our own death. Considered thus in terms of past and future, resurrection is robbed of its impact on the present. We think that we have no personal experience of it. The fact is, there can be an experience of resurrection now, of resurrection and of the death which must precede it. The death in this case is a death to familiar and childish certainties. The resurrection consists in our being raised up to a first and no doubt fleeting glance at unmanageable mystery. *(H. A. Williams, in True Resurrection)***

**Mom: “Michael! What’s with Meredith? She hasn’t wanted to nurse for ages!” Dad: “Um . . . Just for today . . . because it’s Easter . . . I told her you made ‘chocolate’.” (Lynn Johnston, in For Better or For Worse comic strip)**

**I read an article recently about a woman who lived in Germany, who was so opposed to the idea of a “Resurrection” of any kind, that she had her own grave designed in a way that her body would be “protected” from such a thing. The vault itself was above ground, made of huge solid slabs of granite, and held together by giant iron clasps. She had the inscription carved on the formidable structure: “This Grave is never to b disturbed!” After her death, for a time nothing happened to the burial place, or so it appeared. However, no one had noticed the seed of a tree that had been lying in the ground under the vault when it was placed in position. Over the years, the little seed began to spring to life, eventually splitting apart the granite blocks, bursting the iron clasps, and leaving the woman’s vain attempt to block renewed Life in a pile of rubble that had become part of the base of a very vibrant and large tree. *(Rev. Andy Kress)***

**Mrs. Easter Bunny looks at Mr. Easter Bunny and says while observing the Easter egg color designs on the wall: “This isn’t what I had in mind when I asked you to paint the walls ‘Eggshell’.” *(Mark Paris, in Off the Mark comic strip)***

**Last month, a baby penguin named Toga was stolen from a zoo on the Isle of Wight, off England’s southern coast. Despite a reward of more than $40,000, Togas is still missing, But in the meantime, Toga’s parents, Oscar and Kyala, have produced a new egg. According to zoo owner Derek Curtis, their mood has also improved. “Kyala was absolutely stressed for the first two weeks, wandering up and down,” Curtis said. “Then they started to beak-tap and then they started carrying nesting material, which we were quite happy about.” Kyala laid the egg last week. “Within 40 days,” Curtis said, “we should have another Toga in our life.” *(The Week magazine, February 3, 2006)***

**People, we say, are never the same again after a severe illness or the premature death of someone deeply loved. Sometimes they do shrivel up and atrophy. But appearances here can be deceptive. Under the devastation of their ordeal, which leaves its deep and permanent \traces, one can be aware that they are in touch with a new dimension of reality. They have somehow penetrated to the center of the universe. They are greater people. They are more deeply alive. That is resurrection. *(H. A. Williams, in True Resurrection)***

**Rhubarb and asparagus immediately come to mind as usual dinner vegetables which are perennials. Any Others? *(L. M. Boyd)***

**What does it consist of, this being fully alive as body and mind? It means being a person, and being a person is resurrection. What does a person exist to do? A person exists to be the agent of creative goodness. When we thus create goodness we are both ourselves raised from the dead and also the agents to others of resurrection. For genuine goodness always brings life. *(H. A. Williams, in True Resurrection)***

**During the course of the lesson, I asked my Sunday School class of small children who Saint Mark was. Receiving no answer, I tried them with Matthew. When there was still no answer, I said, “Surely someone knows who Peter is.” A hand went up at the back of the room, and a shy little voice said, “Please teacher, I fink he was a wabbit.” (E. M. Shales)**

**Police arrested a man on drug charges, alleging he had been selling pills he claimed provided eternal youth. When they went through their files, police discovered it was the fourth time the man had been charged. His earlier arrests were in 1794, 1856 and 1923. They let him go. (Rocky Mountain News)**

**One minister was discussing various holidays and traditions with a flock of his young parishioners. “At Christmastime,” he said, “we traditionally use a plant called the poinsettia for decorating and giving, symbolizing Christmas. Can anyone tell me what plant we use to symbolize Easter?” A hand shot up and a small boy piped earnestly, “An eggplant?” (Duncan/Akers, in Amusing Grace)**

**For every departure there is an arrival. It is the law of the ax whose handle was a tree. It is the secret the fire caves in upon whose smoke disappears along its own trail. The leaves push off again – a whole fleet of small sails – and no one knows where they land. Children wave from train windows, their years growing heavy on their backs. But somewhere a cloud is forming that will flower here in petals of snow, and light from a star that started towards us a million years ago arrives at last. (Linda Pastan, in a poem, “Terminal”)**

**The frescoed Villa of the Mysteries and everything else at Pompeii was buried under more than 19 feet of ash and debris from a two-day eruption of Mount Vesuvius, August 24-25, A.D. 79. “Darkness and ashes came . . . a great weight of them,” wrote witness Pliny the Younger. Thousands died. Excavations began in 1748, revealing well-preserved houses, shrines and inscriptions that provide key evidence of Roman culture and city planning. (Alison McLean, in Smithsonian magazine)**

**The real message of Easter is in going through tough times, learning from them, then letting the Christ Presence resurrect our lives out of painful circumstances into something better. Here's to your resurrection at this Easter Season! (Catherine Ponder, in Unity Minister)**

**Cylene: “Ruthie!” Ruthie: “Hi, Cylene!” Cylene: “Listen, if you’re coming to my Easter egg hunt, I hope you’re going to wear something better than that! And it’s customary when you come to such an event to bring the hostess – that’s me – a nice gift! And don’t be late, because we’ll start without you!” Dad: “Cylene, huh? That’s your little rich friend!” Ruthie: “Yes. You know, Grandpa, Cylene must be rich, but I don’t think her family is.” Grandpa: “Why do you say that?” Ruthie: “Because everywhere she goes, people say, ‘There goes Cylene . . . her poor family.’” (Rick Detorie, in One Big Happy comic strip)**

**You will recall that when the Prodigal Son came to himself out in the “far country,” he suddenly saw himself in a larger context, and he came home. He was free. He had released his greater potential. This was a very real resurrection. It didn't involve dying and returning from the grave, but it did involve waking up to the awareness of his true being. (Eric Butterworth, in Unity magazine)**

**Each year, 90 million chocolate bunnies and l6 billion jellybeans are produced for Easter. Each day, 5 million marshmallow chicks and bunnies are produced. (National Confectioners Association, 2005)**

**Easter in the first instance and for the first time in the history of man gave irrefutable proof of the continuity of life. Jesus’ crucifixion and subsequent resurrection further substantiated in his reappearance to the disciples, as it is recorded in Acts, further proves and demonstrates everything he attempted to teach. *(Jim Ockley)***

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**A man was driving along the highway and saw a rabbit hopping across the road. He swerved to avoid hitting it, but the rabbit jumped in front of the car. The driver pulled over and got out to see what had become of the rabbit. To his dismay, the rabbit was dead. He felt so bad he began to cry. A woman driving down the road saw the man and pulled over. She got out and asked what was wrong. “I feel terrible,” the man said. “I accidentally hit this rabbit and killed it.” The woman told him not to worry, she knew what to do. She went to her car trunk and pulled out a spray can. She walked over to the limp, dead rabbit and sprayed the contents of the can onto it. Miraculously, the rabbit came back to life, jumped up, waved its paw at the humans and hopped down the road. Fifty feet away, the rabbit stopped, turned around and waved again. This happened again and again. The man was astonished. He couldn’t figure out what substance could be in the spray can. “What was that?” he asked the woman. She turned the can around so he could read it: “Hair spray. Restores Life to Dead Hair. Adds Permanent Wave.” *(Rocky Mountain News)***

**An Arizona restaurant was barraged with complaints from animal lovers after announcing a rabbit-based menu for Easter Sunday. Chef Payton Curry said he’d received more than 100 e-mails and an anonymous call wishing him a slow and painful death. “To me, it’s just food,” said Curry. But one offended animal lover said that Curry had “underestimated the number of people who have pet rabbits.” *(The Week magazine, April 9, 2010)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*Man reading a book about the Civil War says: “Why can’t you retain this stuff, young man?” Lars: “It’s easy for you to talk. You were there.” *(J. C. Duffy, in The Fusco Brothers comic strip)***

**Go roll the stone of self away and let the Christ within thee arise. (Ella Wheeler Wilcox)**

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**There is a cyclic plan on earth. The rose left undisturbed, unsevered from its source, lives on as pod with seed, wherein a magic force holds in its sway a thousand roses more. The rose will teach its lesson well for those with eyes to see. For herein lies eternal life, seed thoughts to set you free. *(Christine M. Boyer)***

**In Romsey, England, an expert in ancient plants has identified a seed discovered inside an abbey wall as an 856-year-old rose. Workmen found the rose behind a medieval painting in a hole sealed in 1120. Think of it! A seed preserved and isolated for 856 years. That seed which was never allowed to fall into the ground, die, and spring up as a beautiful rose bush. (Prairie Overcomer)**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*The man who was dead for 3 days! Sai Baba (1856-1918) of Shirdi, India, was pronounced dead in 1886, with both circulation and breathing stopped completely. As preparations for his funeral were being made 3 days later, it was observed that he was breathing – and he lived another 32 years. (Ripley’s Believe It or Not!: Book of Chance, p. 213)**

**Saint Francis Xavier -- the 16th-century missionary who converted hundreds of thousands of people to Christianity -- became even more famous after he died -- his body refused to decay. Even 150 years after his death, Francis’ body was still intact. And some 400 years later, it was still in a remarkable state of preservation, even though no attempt had ever been made to preserve it. (Malcolm Balfour, in National Enquirer)**

**A baby is God’s opinion that life should go on. *(Carl Sandburg)***

**Dennis: “Huh! Santa, what are you doing here?” Santa: “Well, the Easter bunny had a huge earache, so I’m filling in for him! Except I’m not very good at hiding eggs!” Dennis: “You’re used to puttin’ stuff under the tree, huh? Why don’t ya just lemme have ‘em all an’ skip the hidin’ part?” Santa: “That would save me a lot of time! Thanks, Dennis! See you in December!” Dennis: “How come you’re not using the chimney?” Santa: “My reindeer are on spring break, so I’m hoofin’ it!” Dennis: “Oh.” Mom and Dad come down the stairs and Dad says: “Well, well, well. Somebody’s been busy this morning!” Mom: “Honey! Why didn’t you wait for us?” Dennis: “You wouldn’t believe me if I told you!” (Hank Ketcham, in Dennis the Menace comic strip)**

**Science has found that nothing can disappear without a trace. Nature does not know extinction. All it knows is transformation! How, if God applies this fundamental principle to the most minute and insignificant parts of His universe, doesn't it make sense to assume that He applies it also to the masterpiece of his creation -- the human soul? I think it does. And everything science has taught me -- and continues to teach me -- strengthens my belief in the continuity of our spiritual existence after death. Nothing disappears without a trace. (Wernher von Braun)**

**It was the Easter and Passover season. The children had been studying Old and New Testament accounts of both holidays and The Ten Commandments was playing on television for about the third time. In addition, we had just had a family Passover meal intertwining as much of the Jewish customs into our Christian version as we could. All of this ecumenical education was apparently overwhelming for one of our younger offspring. When we got up in the morning, there was a red streak of a thick sticky substance on all the bedroom doorframes. Upon investigation, we found that our son, deeply impressed by all he had seen and heard, had decided to protect us all. Not having lamb’s blood, he used ketchup. *(James L. Larabee, in Catholic Digest)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*A seed taken from a 600-year-old rattle necklace in South America has germinated and grown into a plant. The seed was imprisoned in a nutshell, as part of the rattle necklace taken from a tomb in Santa Rosa de Tastil. The seed germinated in 1968 and has grown to six feet and flowered. (Pastor’s Manual)**

**Living dead: Seeds found in the tombs of ancient Egyptians when planted have blossomed into flowers. They have retained their life force for over 4,000 years. (The Diagram Group, in Funky, Freaky Facts, p. 184)**

**In 1967 scientists discovered the seeds of an arctic tundra bush in a frozen lemming burrow. After applying radiometric dating procedures on the seeds, they discovered that the seeds had been lying in the burrow since the last ice age, about 10,000 years ago. Yet when scientists placed them in conditions favorable for growth, the seeds began to germinate within forty-eight hours! (Philip & Nancy Seff, in Our Fascinating Earth))**

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**Man: “Your Easter sermons are my favorite, Reverend.” Reverend: “Is that why you sleep so soundly through them?” Man: “They’re just so restful. Except for that part where you keep yelling ‘He is Risen’!” Reverend: “That’s my favorite part. I also like the throwing-the-hymnal-at-you-when-it’s-time-to-sing part.” *(Jerry Bittle, in Geech comic strip)***

**I am standing on the seashore. A ship spreads her white sails to the morning breeze and starts for the ocean. I stand watching her until she fades on the horizon, and someone at my side says, “She is gone.” Gone where? The loss of sight is in me, not in her. Just at the moment when someone says, “She is gone,” there are others who are watching her coming. Other voices take up the glad shout, “Here she comes,” and that is dying. (Henry Scott Holland)**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*There are no fish in the Great Salt Lake. However, from April to December, brine shrimp do live there. These shrimp die in the winter after laying trillions of eggs. The eggs are so small that 150 could fit on the head of a pin. It is a big business to harvest the eggs and dry them out. The eggs can be stored for years. When put in salt water, they come to life, furnishing food for prawns and birds. *(Betty Debnam, in Rocky Mountain News)***

**A tiny little desert shrimp lays eggs that may remain dormant for years during dry periods . . . and at the first rain, the eggs hatch. *(Ann Adams)***

**There is a certain little shrimp that lives in the mud of desert waterholes. When the mud dries up, the shrimp shut down almost completely until rain comes along to bring them back to life. Scientists have found shrimp eggs in a dried mud hole that turned into shrimp when soaked with water. Those eggs were known to have been twenty-five years old! (Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia, p. 111)**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*Jurassic Park suddenly seems a little less far-fetched. Sperm harvested from frozen animals, a new study suggests, could actually be used to bring extinct species back to life. After defrosting several mouse bodies that had been frozen for 15 years, researchers extracted sperm from the animals’ testes and impregnated living female mice. Those mice later gave birth to healthy pups. It turns out that sperm, frozen slowly within intact bodies, can stay viable for much longer than scientists expected – perhaps even long enough to survive for thousands of years. “The Jurassic Park idea was thought to be pure science fiction by sperm biologists,” Australian anatomist J. M. Cummins tells Discovery News. “Now we are not so sure.” While there are no known specimens of frozen dinosaur testes, there are a number of well-preserved frozen mammoths and extinct cat species, whose sperm could be injected into the eggs of a living relative. That procedure would result in a hybrid animal with half ancient, half modern DNA. Scientists, though, say they have a more practical aim: replenishing small populations of living but endangered creatures. *(The Week magazine, September 8, 2006)***

**I am reminded of the first time I ever attended an Easter Sunrise Service. We gathered at five o’clock in the morning at a desert spot and it was extremely cold. No one had thought to wear heavy coats and we stood around in the dark shivering, our teeth chattering, hugging ourselves to keep warm and all the time wondering, “Why am I here?” And then the sun came up sending a dazzling array of pink and gold into the sky. The sunlight sparkled on every little leaf and blade of grass. It was the most fantastic sight I’d ever seen, worth all the effort that preceded it, an occasion never to be forgotten. I couldn’t help but think, “It’s just like life – the darker the night, the brighter the dawn. If we can endure through the night, the sun always rises.” (Cornelia Addington)**

**Where’s the bunny? In Switzerland, children receive holiday eggs from the Easter cuckoo. (Uncle John’s Unstoppable Bathroom Reader, p. 267)**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*Beware of the guy who reminds you that you can’t take it with him. He’ll try to take it with him. (H. F. Henrichs, in Sunshine magazine)**

**The Resurrection takes place in us every time we rise to Jesus’ realization of the perpetual indwelling life that is connecting us with the Father. A new flood of life comes to all who open their minds and their bodies to the living word of God. (Charles Fillmore)**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*Billy says to Mom and Dad after leaving church: “Could we just go home now and eat our candy ‘stead of goin’ out for brunch?” Dolly: “Jeffy put a hundred dollars in the collection basket and it was my play money!” Jeffy: “I made a great Easter card, Mommy, but I left it on the school bus!” Billy: “Grandma says they should have an Easter carol called Son Rise Serenade.” Dolly: “Is it okay for us to talk now, Mommy?” (Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)**

**April: “Elizabeth, I want you to tell me something about these Easter eggs!” Elizabeth: “Well, it’s a really old tradition, April. An egg signifies birth – and this is the birth of spring! The word ‘Easter’ comes from the name ‘Eastre’ who was once believed to be the goddess of spring! Of course, Easter is a very important religious celebration which might seem like a celebration about death. But, according to the Bible, Jesus died and came to life again – just like all the leaves and flowers and animals come back in springtime. So that’s why we have eggs when we celebrate Easter! Does that answer your question, April?” April: “Not really. I wanted to know who ate all the chocolate ones!!” (Lynn Johnston, in For Better or For Worse comic strip)**

**Like many ancient people, Emperor Qin believed he could take the real world with him when he died. He had an army of 7,000 life-sized terra cotta soldiers built to guard his tomb. Terra cotta is a kind of pottery. The soldiers are all different, with individual expressions and uniforms. More than 1,000 have been restored. They are lined up in trenches as if they were going into battle. They were discovered in 1974 near the city of Xi’an in central China. *(Betty Debnam, in Rocky Mountain News)***

**A scholar or scientist as he pursues his research finds a favorite theory breaking up in his hands. He is left with no home in which to house the quantities of evidence he has collected. Then a new, more adequate theory gradually takes shape in his mind, which makes him even more at home with his material than he was before. That is resurrection. *(H. A. Williams, in True Resurrection)***

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**Someone said to Joseph of Arimathaea, “That was such a beautiful, costly, hand-hewn tomb. Why did you give it to someone else to be interred in?” “Oh,” said Joseph, “He only needed it for the weekend.” *(Duncan/Akers, in Amusing Grace)***

**The mausoleum of Red Square in Moscow displays Lenin’s embalmed body. The pyramids of Egypt protect the mummified bodies of ancient Egyptian kings. Mohammed’s tomb is noted for the bones it contains. Westminster Abbey of London houses the bodies of English heroes. And Arlington Cemetery in Washington, D.C., is the honored resting place of many great Americans. All of those places are famous, attracting tourists because of the bodies they contain. There is all the difference in the world, however, between those monuments and the tomb of Jesus. Although Pilgrims still travel to Jerusalem, Jesus’ tomb is famous because it is empty. Jesus’ bones are not there. He is risen from the dead. *(George Sweeting, in Moody Monthly)***

**A husband and wife, married many years, had planned to enjoy life and travel. But only a month after he retired, the husband suddenly died. All of life seemed to end for that widow. And on her husband's tombstone she had engraved the words: “The light of my life has gone out.” But with the passage of time and the encouragement and counsel of friends, her life came alive again. Two years later her pastor joined her in marriage to another good man and watched them as they enthusiastically anticipated building a new life together. Later she went to her pastor and said, “I'm going to have to change that inscription on my first husband's tombstone.” “No,” replied the pastor. “I think all you have to do is add one more line: ‘I struck another match!’” No matter what happens to us, there is always something left to live for. Broken lives can be rebuilt. What do you do when your world caves in? If you have faith in the goodness of God and in His power to change the course of your life, you never give up on life. An inscription found on a small gravestone after a devastating air raid on Britain in World War II gained much attention. People thought it must be a famous quotation, but it wasn't. The words were written by a lonely old lady whose pet was killed by a bomb. They read: “There is not enough darkness in all the world to put out the light of one small candle.” And we have the Light of life! (M. P. Horban, in Pentecostal Evangel)**

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**Easter bunny: “Happy Easter, Trout! I come bearing chocolate!” Trout: “Will you shush? That’s not how we celebrate Easter at this house!” Easter bunny: “Oh, sorry. You have different traditions?” Trout: “Yes! At my house it is customary to maintain a holy silence until Easter noon. So my Mom’s fitful slumber is not disturbed in any way.” Easter bunny: “Is Easter noon symbolic in your religion?” Trout: “Heck, yeah! The last church service is at eleven! If I can keep her conked out, I am home free!” (Tony Cochran, in Agnes comic strip)**

**Dolly: “But when they found the stone rolled back from the tomb and Christ was gone, where did they think he went?” Billy: “I know! He left a happy trail in the sky so everybody could follow him!” (Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)**

**It is a known fact that many trees continue a never-ending cycle of life even after they have been taken down. When a redwood falls in the forest, its roots sprout other trees around its stump, creating a new circle of life. In one way or another, most trees continue to contribute to life long after they have fallen to the ground. A downed tree can be a haven of safety for wildlife, nourishment for the earth, and source of food for nature, and an area that provides a fertile environment for new trees to come forth. *(Unity School of Christianity, in The Promise of Christmas)***

**A bunch of young kids in a large family were enjoying Easter eggs and chocolate rabbits. One of them, remembering experiences of trick-or-treating, remarked, “Easter tastes better than Halloween, and you don't have to ring a lot of doorbells.” *(A Treasury of Humor, Ballantine Books)***

**A certain Hanoverian countess, who lived about a hundred years ago, was a noted unbeliever, and was especially opposed to the doctrine of the resurrection, as indeed every unbeliever might well be, especially if his opposition could alter it. This lady died when about thirty years of age. Before her death she gave orders that her grave should be covered with a slab of granite, that around it should be placed square blocks of stone, and that the corners should be fastened to each other and to the granite slab by heavy iron clamps. Upon the covering this inscription was placed: THIS BURIAL PLACE, PURCHASED TO ALL ETERNITY, MUST NEVER BE OPENED. All that human power could do to prevent any change in that grave was done. But a little birch tree seed sprouted, and the root found its way between the side stone and the upper slab and grew there. Slowly but steadily it forced its way until the iron clamps were born asunder, the granite lid was raised, and it is now resting upon the trunk of the birch tree, which is large and flourishing. *(Selected, Paul Lee Tan, in Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations)***

**Some years ago a vase hermetically sealed was found in a mummy-pit in Egypt, by the English traveler Wilkinson, who sent it to the British museum. The librarian there, having unfortunately broken it, discovered in it a few grains of wheat and one or two peas, old, wrinkled and hard as stone. The peas were planted carefully under glass on the 4th of June 1844, and at the end of thirty days these old seeds were seen to spring up into new life. They had been buried probably about three thousand years ago, perhaps, in the time of Moses, and had slept all that long time, apparently dead, yet still living in the dust of the tomb. *(Gaussen)***

**Resurrecting an ancient virus: French researchers have revived a dormant and previously unknown virus from a 30,000-year-old sample of Siberian permafrost. The pathogen poses no threat to humans, but its zombie-like return to an infectious state demonstrates the remarkable durability of microbes and raises the question of whether unknown, disease-causing viruses from some ancient era might be locked in ice. “(This) is a good demonstration that the notion that a virus could be ‘eradicated’ from the planet is plain wrong, and gives us a false sense of security,” Jean-Michel Claverie of the Mediterranean Institute of Microbiology tells Smithsonian.com. The virus, Pithovirus sibericum, is between 10 and 100 times larger than an average-size virus, and its 500 genes give it far greater genetic complexity than the common influenza virus. All viruses require host cells to reproduce, and they exist in an inert state in between reproductive cycles, much like a plant’s seed does. In this instance, researchers thawed a sample of frozen soil taken from 100 feet underneath the surface, then placed it on a petri dish containing amoeba colonies. The resuscitated virus was absorbed by the amoebas and then began making copies of itself until it split open its hosts, killing them. *(The Week magazine, March 21, 2014)***

**Dennis: “It’s him!” Mom: “Who, honey?” Dennis: “The Easter bunny! He was right there!” Mom: “Is that so?” Dennis: “I just saw the Easter bunny, Dad!” Dad: “You don’t say. Did you thank him for all the pretty eggs?” Dennis: “He was too busy eatin’ Mom’s flowers and now he’s headin’ for Mister Wilson’s garden!” Dennis yells at Mister Wilson: “Heads up! The Easter bunny’s in your garden!!” Mister Wilson: “I know, and Santa Claus is in my kitchen.” Dennis: “Oh, well! I tried to warn ‘em!” Rabbit: “Munch! Munch! Crunch!” *(Hank Ketchum, in Dennis the Menace comic strip)***

**To Phyllis Laughlin's surprise, watermelon plants started coming up about a month later. The melons got no water, but benefited from an unusually wet spring and summer. They got no fertilizer, except a child's amazement. Still they grew. Even their beginning was chancy: Seeds thrown out with the rinds germinated this spring. “My husband never had any luck. He'd water them and water them,” Laughlin said. Their grandchildren, Corey, 6, and Kelsey, 4, watched the melons' growth. Corey was especially excited. “He said, ‘Grandma, that's amazing!’” “It is amazing,” Laughlin said, “that they grew this big without being watered. I don't know, I thought maybe now that Cliff's gone, the living goes on. I thought maybe it would be a good remembrance of him. He would have thought, ‘Oh, my gosh.’” These watermelons resulted from a Laughlin family picnic a year ago at the home where Cliff and Phyllis had lived for nearly 50 years and raised their eight children. “We had watermelon and corn to eat,” she said. “Instead of putting them (the remains) in the garbage, Cliff would always say, ‘Let's bury it out in the yard.’” So the watermelon rinds and corncobs were buried out back and forgotten. Their unexpected appearance not only means Cliff Laughlin got his wish, but the tradition will continue: Now Corey has been bitten by the watermelon bug. “Oh, yes, he wants to grow more,” Phyllis Laughlin said. For 50 years, no matter how hard he tried, Cliff Laughlin of Pueblo, Colorado, never could grow watermelons in his garden. Laughlin died April 11, 1999, at the age of 92. *(Associated Press)***

**Come Easter, some pedestrians in Lima, Peru, fall down a lot. By then, worshippers for weeks have carried lighted candles in processions. The melted wax makes the streets slippery. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**In the ninth century, Pope Nicholas I decreed that a cockerel would be displayed from every church steeple as a weather vane. The cockerel was used to remind all parishioners of Peter’s three denials of Christ before the cock crowed, to keep them from this sin. (Noel Botham, in The Amazing Book of Useless Information, p. 15)**

**Preacher: “And so they decided to go to the tomb, but were more concerned as to who would help them roll the rock away from the entrance! When they arrived at the tomb they found that the rock had been rolled aside from the entrance and that the tomb was empty! Do you know why, young lady?” Young lady: “Because they forget to set their clocks ahead and had overslept?” *(Batiuk & Ayers, in Crankshaft comic strip)***

**Four years ago, Mrs. Cordray, a widow 68, who had been under care for treatment of Parkinson’s disease, was declared dead and her body was sent to a funeral home. A funeral home employee began making preparations for embalming when he thought he saw her tongue move. A moment later she took a breath. Mrs. Cordray recovered from that ordeal, and spent the remaining years of her life at an extended care facility. A spokesman confirmed that she died in a hospital in Canton, Ohio, in 1975. (Associated Press)**

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**Where Did the Word "Easter" Come From? The origin of the word "Easter" is unclear. It may have derived its name from the Anglo-Saxon dawn goddess Eostre, whose feast was celebrated each spring at about this time. Or, it may have derived from words meaning "rising," "dawn," or "east." *(The Old Farmer's Almanac, 2021)***

**One of the holiest Christian holidays is named after a pagan goddess. The word “Easter” derives from the Anglo-Saxon goddess Eostre, who governed the vernal equinox. (*Harry Bright & Jakob Anser, in That’s A Fact, Jack!, p. 50)***

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**Our loved ones pass from our material view to work in another part of Our Father’s vineyard. *(Jerry Miller)***

**Resurrect new life out of earth’s old habits. Resurrect the intuition of joy from beneath the debris of moods. Resurrect unending joy from ever-changing life. *(Paramahansa Yogananda)***

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