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### Easter Even

THE tempest over and gone, the calm begun.  
Lo, "It is finished," and the strong Man sleeps.  
All stars keep vigil watching for the sun.  
The moon her vigil keeps.

A garden full of silence and of dew  
Beside a virgin cave and entrance stone;  
Surely a garden full of angels too,  
Wondering, on watch alone.

They who cry "Holy, holy, holy!" still,  
Veiling their faces round God's throne above,  
May well keep vigil on this heavenly hill  
And cry their cry of love.

Adoring God in his new mystery  
Of love more deep than hell,  
More strong than death,  
Until the day break and the shadows flee,  
The waking and the breath.

— Christina G. Rossetti.

### Flowers Express Essential Feeling of Joyous Easter

"The altar is snowy with blooms,  
The font is a vase of perfume,  
On pillar and chancel are twining  
Fresh garlands of eloquent bloom!"

ALL the churches are decorated for the festival after Resurrection; and the lily, emblem of purity, sweetness, and grace combined, is the favorite flower for decoration.

Flowers voice the essential feelings of Easter. Each fragrant blossom is the fulfillment of a divine promise. For the perennial miracle of an awakened earth is in full harmony with the aspiring note of religion reiterating its faith in the promise of a new life.

Flowers, like music, speak the language of the heart. They are capable of conveying the most personal and individual ideals while yet appealing to a common universal vision and imagination.

This characteristic of flowers fits them especially both to express the private affections of the giver and enrich the symbolism of the altar. A basket or a cross of flowers can say at the heart wishes to say and say it without obtruding personal feeling.



In medieval times flowers spoke a definite language, the interpretation of which seems almost lost for a reason. The palm, the classical symbol of victory, was early taken as the symbol of martyrdom. It was outlined on the tombs of the early martyrs, and it was placed in the hands of those who suffered in the cause of truth, to express their final victory over the powers of sin and death.

Roses white and red voice innocence and love. The Madonna was the "Rose of Sharon." A wreath of roses is placed upon the brow of St. Cecilia. Roses and fruit are borne by St. Dorothy. A white anchor of camellias, with its top a cross, expresses faith and hope.

The lily has long been regarded as expressive of purity. In Bermuda, the home of our Easter lily, all the roads are full of people, white and black, carrying lilies to the churches at dawn on Easter day. With them the doorways, altars and pulpits are decorated, and the graves are completely covered. Each lily and each Easter flower thus bestowed is vocal, like one of those old litanies that have descended to us from time immemorial, full of wholesome piety and charity—common prayer to all devout souls. The flowers are of yet older birth than the ancient prayers—primeval litanies before ever music was.

Their eloquence is growing on us from year to year, as we bring roses, lilies and other Easter flowers to deck the altars of God, to hallow with their perfume and beauty the resting places of the departed and to dedicate our homes to Christ with our bright, sweet, sacred emblems.

"Christ is risen! with glad lips we utter,  
And far up the infinite height  
Archangels the psalm re-echo  
And crown him with lilies of light!"

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### Good Reason Why Eggs Hold Place in Easter Feasts

FROM earliest times the egg has been the most significant feature of the Easter feasting. There were roasted eggs on the paschal table. "Pasch" eggs were sent to church to be blessed before being eaten at Easter.

The early Christian church forbade the eating of eggs during Lent, a custom which still obtains in Russia, where not only meat but all the products of the animal kingdom, such as eggs, milk, and cheese, are forbidden during the Lenten abstinence. Only



### The Lilies' Message

acid rye bread and sour "Kvass" are partaken of by rich and poor alike—the car and his family took the lead in the long fast. But after the fast comes the feast, and such feasting Russian Easter dinner parties excel in luxury any elsewhere.

In the old days, when the Easter feast was young, there was not so much knowledge of chemistry and physiology as now. Yet it was instinctively understood that a long fast must not be suddenly broken. In fasting, the body emaciates, and most of the secretions are greatly diminished; and following a fast the most nourishing and digestible foods are required. Instinct taught the ancients to turn at this time of feasting to eggs as a strong aid in replacing the waste of the human body. And it is a very interesting fact that eggs were regarded by the early Church as a blessed food after a fast:

"These blessed eggs have the virtue of sanctifying the entrails of the body, and are to be the first fat or fleshy nourishment they take after the abstinence of Lent."

This ancient ecclesiastical enjoinder apropos of the Easter feast is significant when compared with the modern physiological view of the food value of eggs.

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And far up the infinite height  
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And crown him with lilies of light!"

### GREATEST OF ALL FACTS

Proof of Escape From the Bondage of the Tomb Brings Joy to the Christian.

Those who remember their Bible will easily turn to any of the Gospels, Luke for instance, and find in Chap. 24 that upon the first day of the week (Sunday) the friends came to the sepulcher and found the stone which had been in front of the opening rolled away, and no body in the tomb, and that two angels standing there asked: "Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen."

This is the outstanding fact to all believing Christians, and never has it come home to them with such moving significance as now, when a short time ago all the world seemed to stand face to face with death and its eternal problem of Life Everlasting.

### All Customs Emblematic

As commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ, Easter day is marked in all Christian countries by impressive religious ceremonies and joyous social customs. The latter are too varied to be described here, but all of them, including different forms of the Easter egg custom, are in a way emblematic of the event commemorated.

### One Famous Easter Egg

The record in the size and cost of Easter eggs was broken by one given some time ago to a famous Parisian actress by one of her admirers. On Easter morning an immense van rolled into the courtyard of the house inhabited by the actress, and on the van rested a gigantic egg made of wood and decked with velvet. At the first moment the astonished lady did not know what to do with this amiable gift, but soon she noticed in the egg a door, and, upon opening it her eye fell upon a carriage with two fine horses and a coachman sitting motionless on the box.




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