



What is Eastertide?

Though all the chocolate bunnies have been eaten and all the Easter eggs found (hopefully), the celebration of Easter in the Catholic Church is far from over as Eastertide is just beginning.

Catholics and many Protestant faiths celebrated the Resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday, [April 20th]. But the celebration of Easter through the liturgical season of Eastertide is 50 days long, leading up to Pentecost. It is the longest season in the Church calendar. Also, during Eastertide, *the Angelus* is replaced with the *Regina Caeli* (found on the back of page), continuing the celebration of the Resurrection.

But why do Catholics celebrate Easter for 50 days?

The purpose of Eastertide is to bask in the glory of the Resurrection. This time is to reflect on the new life God has given us through the sacrifice of Christ. Everything changed and a single day is not enough time to celebrate the magnitude of Easter. The Catholic faithful spent 40 days praying, fasting, and giving alms in preparation for the Passion, death, and Resurrection of Christ. In turn, we will spend the next 50 days celebrating Christ's victory over death.

Another reason the Church celebrates Eastertide is to remember the 40 days Christ spent with His Apostles before his Ascension. Just as the disciples rejoiced in the Resurrection for 40 days, learning more from Jesus, the Catholic faithful rejoice during the Easter season.

“It is characterized, above all, by the joy of glorified life and the victory over death expressed most fully in the great resounding cry of the Christian: Alleluia! All faith flows from faith in the Resurrection,” according to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Throughout Eastertide, the first readings for every Mass come from the Acts of the Apostles. It will culminate with the reading of Acts 2:1-31 when the Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles at Pentecost.

Regina Caeli

~ English and Latin ~

This is one of four Marian antiphons, with following versicles and prayers, traditionally said or sung after night prayer, immediately before going to sleep.

It is said throughout Eastertide.

(That is, from Easter Day through Pentecost, the seventh Sunday after Easter.)

Queen of Heaven

V. Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.

R. For He whom you did merit to bear, alleluia.

V. Has risen, as he said, alleluia.

R. Pray for us to God, alleluia.

V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.

R. For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

Let us pray. O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we beseech Thee, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, His Mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Regina Caeli

V. Regina caeli, laetare, alleluia.

R. Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia.

V. Resurrexit, sicut dixit, alleluia.

R. Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia.

V. Gaude et laetare, Virgo Maria, alleluia.

R. Quia surrexit Dominus vere, alleluia.

Oremus. Deus, qui per resurrectionem Filii tui, Domini nostri Iesu Christi, mundum laetificare dignatus es: praesta, quaesumus; ut per eius Genetricem Virginem Mariam, perpetuae capiamus gaudia vitae. Per eundem Christum Dominum nostrum. Amen.