

The Meaning of Christian Easter Symbols



1. Easter Eggs



Although people used eggs in traditions before the time of Christ, Christians adopted it early on because it was a symbol of new life and rebirth. As Mary Helen describes, in medieval times, most people were illiterate and Bibles were rare. “The only copy of the Bible might be chained to the podium!” Therefore, symbols, icons or plays were a great way to teach people who could not read.

According to the [Rev. MaryJane Pierce Norton](#) from United Methodist Discipleship Ministries, early Christian practices included giving up eggs for Lent and then eating them on Easter morning. Coloring the eggs is a way to express the joy of Christ resurrected.

2. Spring flowers and foliage



Many bulbs, such as the amaryllis, won't bloom again if you don't let the bulb rest. Use bulbs, and blooming lilies and amaryllis, to show that although Jesus died and was buried, he rose again like flowers in springtime. Churches decorate a cross with flowers as a symbol of resurrection.

3. The butterfly



The beauty of a butterfly comes as a surprise when you consider the lowly cocoon. The worm goes into the cocoon in one shape, but it emerges in a new form. In a sense, it dies unto itself. That's what Jesus did on Easter!

4. Baby animals born in spring



Jesus is called The Lamb of God. Older kids can understand the concept that a long time ago, people thought they had to sacrifice an animal to God — a lamb — to say they were sorry. They gave up something valuable to them — something that cost money — to atone to God.”

When Jesus died, they realized they no longer had to sacrifice an animal. Jesus became our lamb – he took that place. For younger children, the idea that a lamb is a new life, that Jesus was gentle and that he cared for people as a shepherd does his flock, is enough.