

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION JBSA-FORT SAM HOUSTON

Garrison Chaplain's Office

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Greetings from "Safe-at-Home"

O Happy Day!!! For many, the season of Easter is upon us. It calls forth a message of hope in God's promises to all of creation. As the season of Spring continues, the Earth continues to awaken. Its blossoms and blooms shout out that it's alive and begging to be noticed. So venture out into creation. Thank God for all we are given.

Passover & Easter

Both celebrate spring and hope, though there are major differences between them also.

BY RABBI ISMAR SCHORSCH

The frequent overlapping of Easter and Passover — of the Christian Holy Week with [the Jewish] eight-day celebration of Passover — merits attention. Unlike the yoking of Christmas and Hanukkah, Easter and Passover are festivals of equal gravity. Side by side they bring to light the deep structures of both religions

Scheduled to Coincide in the Spring

First, their inviolable matrix is spring. In each case, the calendar is adjusted to ensure that the holiday is celebrated early in the spring. For the church, which believed that the resurrection took place on a Sunday, the First Council of Nicaea in 325 determined that Easter should always fall on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the vernal equinox. In consequence, Easter remained without a fixed date but proximate to the full moon, which coincided with the start of Passover on the 15th of the Hebrew month Nissan.

Both Festivals Emphasize History and Hope

Second, in both festivals nature and history converge with a resounding message of hope. The renewal of nature that comes with spring amplifies the promise of redemption embedded in the historical events being commemorated. To each faith community, God's presence manifests itself in two keys, in nature and through history.

Yet, in both, the preferred medium is history, a legacy of the biblical shift to monotheism. Judaism and Christianity rest firmly on the foundation stories recounted ritually in their respective spring festivals. In Egypt, the family of Jacob had morphed into a nation welded together by the bitter experience of oppression.

Redemption by God imbued them with the national mission to create a body politic of a nobler order. Though their descendants failed, the body of religious literature which recorded their efforts and voiced their ideals would challenge humanity even as it would comfort them in their long exile. To recall the exodus in dark times

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Enhancement and photograph by Deacon Roger Steckly

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church had a progressive enhancement to their environment during the Lenten season that culminated at Easter in the image above.

Do you have a sacred space in your home? What icons, images and items connect you to the Divine?

"Hope" is the thing with feathers
by Emily Dickenson

"Hope" is the thing with feathers -
That perches in the soul -
And sings the tune without the words -
And never stops - at all -

And sweetest -
in the Gale - is heard -
And sore must be the storm -
That could abash the little Bird
That kept so many warm -

I've heard it in the chilliest land -
And on the strangest Sea -
Yet - never - in Extremity,
It asked a crumb - of me..

The Poems of Emily Dickinson Edited by R. W. Franklin (Harvard University Press, 1999)

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(continued on page 2) nurtured the yearning for a future restoration, which is why Passover ends with the reciting of a *haftarah* [prophetic reading] that bristles with this-worldly messianism (Isaiah 10:32-12:6).

If Passover is largely about Egypt, Easter is largely about Passover. Its historical setting is Jerusalem at Passover, the Last Supper could well have been an embryonic seder, and Jesus is fated to become the paschal lamb.

Indeed, the new Catechism of the Catholic Church calls Easter "The Christian Passover" (no. 1170) and speaks of the "Paschal mystery of Christ's cross" (no. 57).

The good news is that the death of one has the capacity to save many. The resurrection of Jesus is the ultimate affirmation of life or in the words of the Byzantine liturgy:

Christ is risen from the dead!
Dying, he conquered death;
To the dead, he has given life (no. 638).

Finally, because the message of both festivals is so central to the belief system of each faith community, it interlaces the liturgy year round. In the Haggadah we read that Rabbi Elazar ben Azariah was already advanced in years before he fathomed that the exodus from Egypt should be recalled by every Jew twice daily, in the evening as well as in the morning. That is the reason for the addition at the third paragraph of the Shema [a prayer said twice daily] in which this bedrock fact is affirmed. God's compassion obliges us to sanctify our lives.

Correspondingly, for Catholics and many Protestants the weekly sacrament of communion, reenacting the last supper, turns God's saving grace into a lived reality.

Read the full article at:

<https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/easter-and-passover/>

Tell us what you think.

Ignite Youth Ministry

Please encourage your youth to connect with our youth ministry.

You may download the Remind App on Android/Apple devices.

The connect

Receive updates through the Remind app



@ignitefshE for 1st - 5th grades

@ignitefshM for 6th - 8th grades gather online 4 PM Tuesdays

@ignitefshH for 9th - 12th grades gather online 6:30 PM Wednesday

or reach them by e-mail:

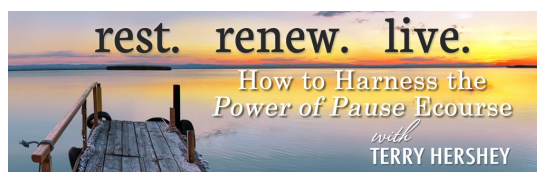
Alicia: aboone.ctr@gmail.com

Phillip: pmusick.ctr@gmail.com

Free eCourse

Last week, I shared an invitation from Terry Hershey to a free eCourse, *How to Harness the Power of Pause*. All are welcome

Video Invite: <https://youtu.be/hkftHLTPz9Y>



Sign up for the course at:

<https://www.terryhershey.com/harness-the-power-of-pause-ecourse-free/>

This little newsletter.

Our list serve is pieced together from here, there, and the next place.

If you know someone who'd like to be included, have them contact me, or simply forward this on to them. On the flip side, if your mailbox is already full, request to be removed from our list. We'd hate to see you go, but we understand. *my e-mail is:*

reynaldo.gustamente.civ@mail.mil