

The Easter Story

Easter

The Easter story happened over 2,000 years ago, in a country a long way from here, which was then called Judea. The events took place in a city called Jerusalem.



Palm Sunday



The story starts the Sunday before Easter Day.
We call this day Palm Sunday.

On Palm Sunday a man called Jesus rode into Jerusalem. The city was busy as it was a Jewish festival called Pesach. Lots of the people were pleased to see him and shouted “Hosanna!”



The people waved palm leaves.



They did this because they had heard Jesus speak about God and how it was important to love each other and be kind. Many people thought he was a very special man, but some people did not like what he said and they wanted to get rid of him. Jesus knew this, so it was very brave of him to go to Jerusalem for Pesach.

Maundy Thursday



On the Thursday before Easter Day Jesus met with his friends to share a meal.

The Last Supper



Jesus knew he was going to be arrested by the people who didn't like him and that he was going to be killed, so he gathered his friends together to share a last meal.

Jesus took some bread and wine, he blessed it and he gave thanks to God.

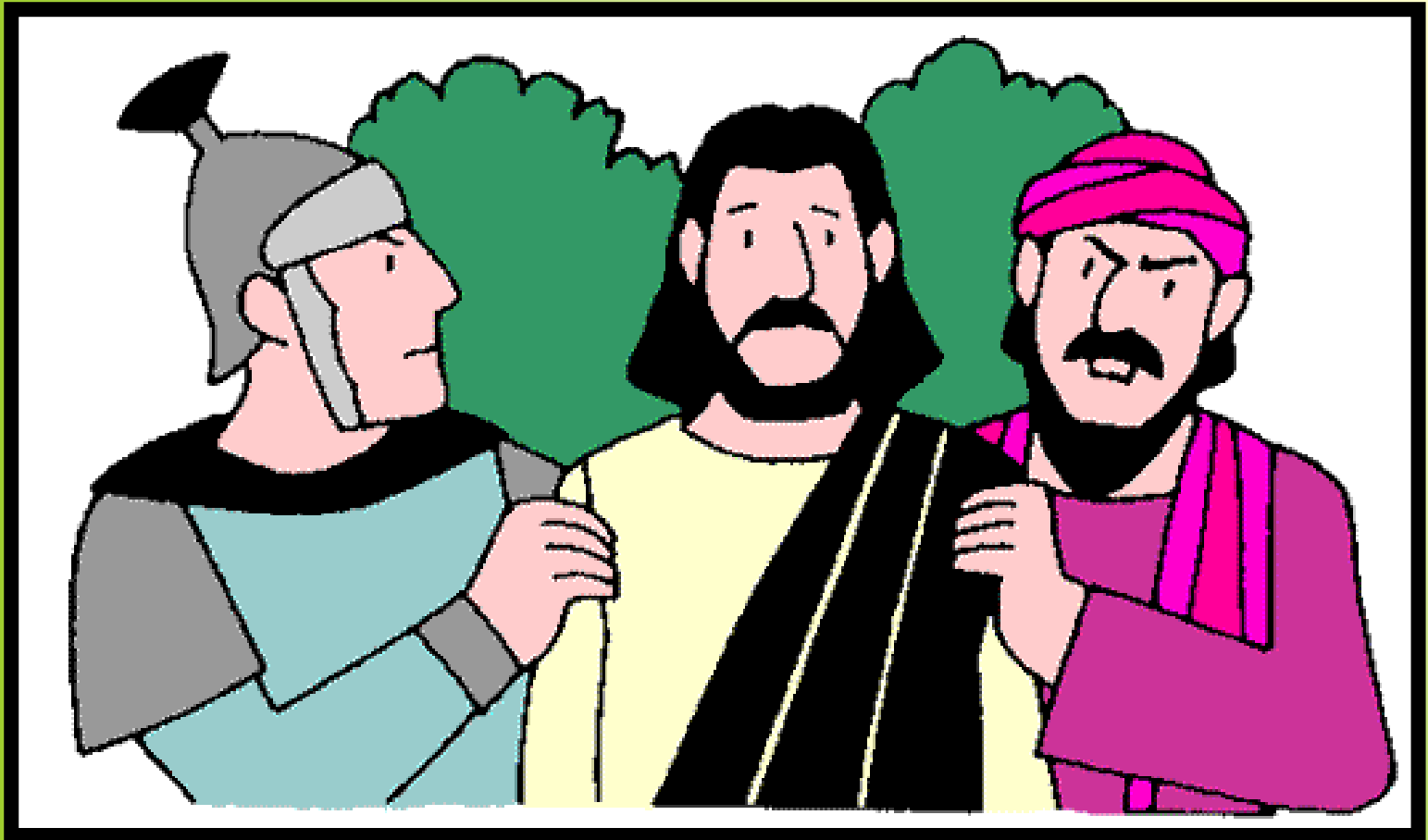


Then he said to his friends, 'Whenever you do this, remember me.' Christians still do this and remember Jesus.

The Garden of Gethsemane



After the Last Supper Jesus left his friends and went out into the garden to pray.

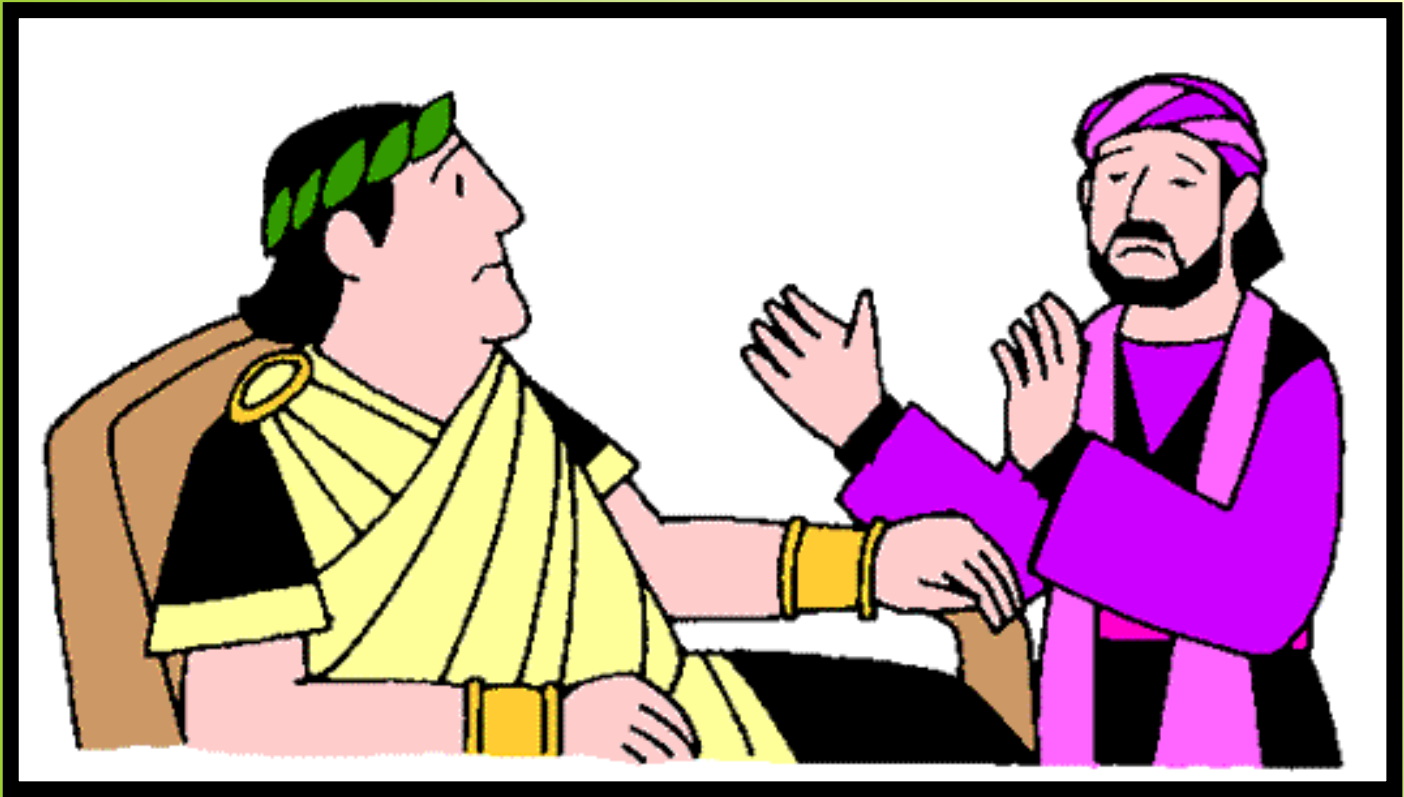


While he was alone and praying some soldiers came and arrested him. They took Jesus away.

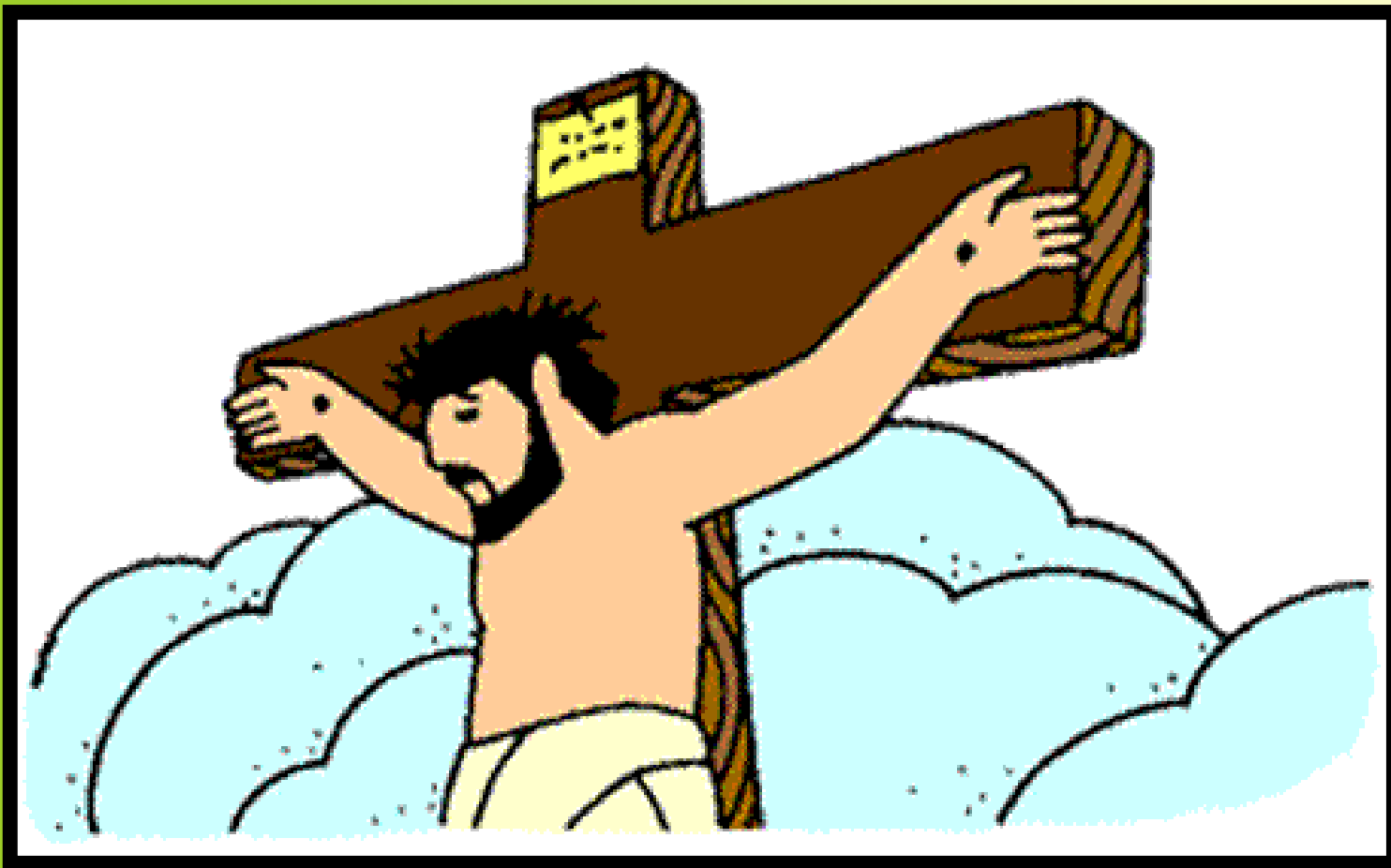
Good Friday



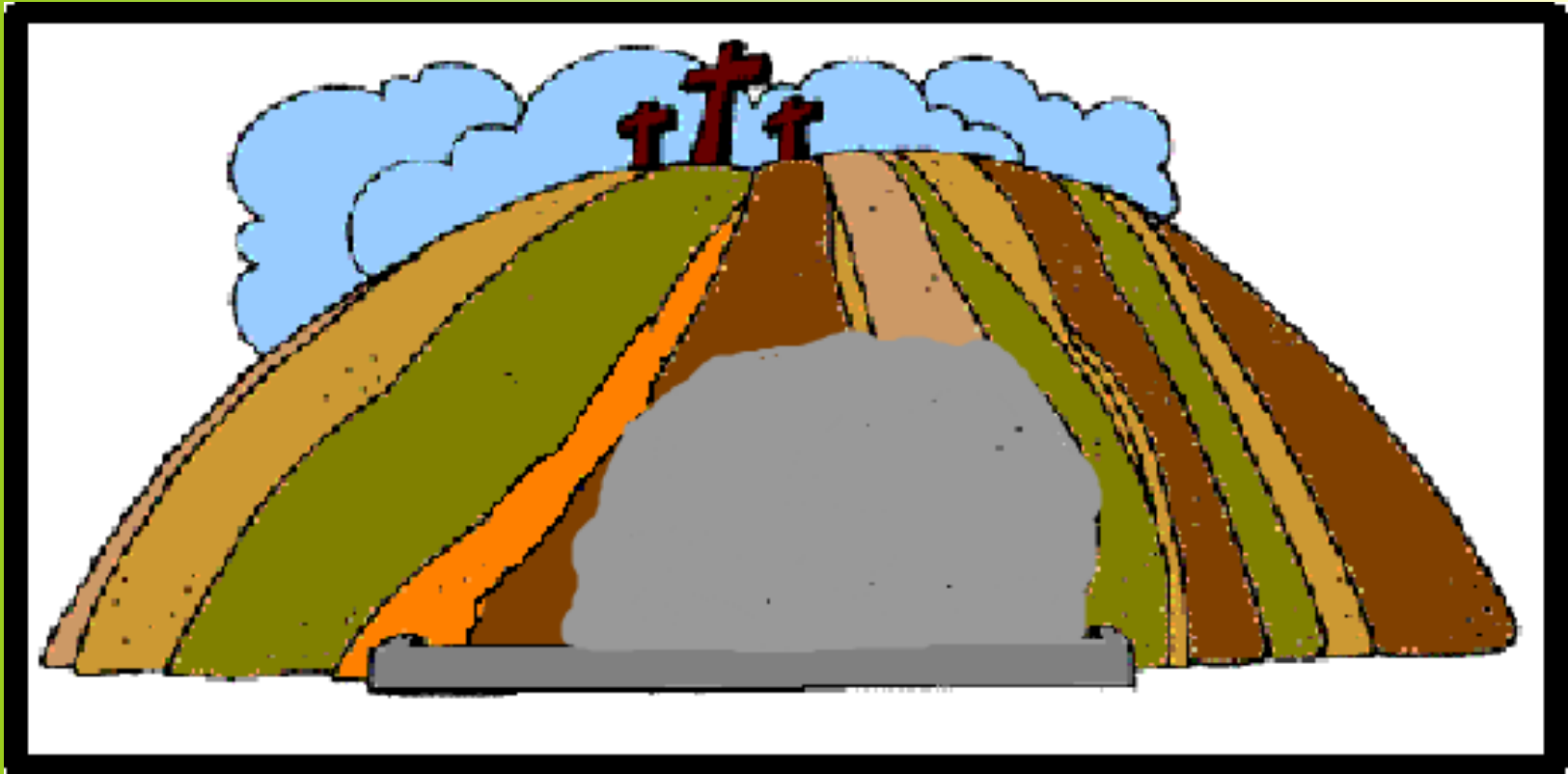
God's Friday



The Romans were in charge in Judea, so the people who didn't like Jesus and who thought he was a trouble maker took Jesus to the Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate. They told him that Jesus should be killed. Pilate didn't think so, but he finally agreed.

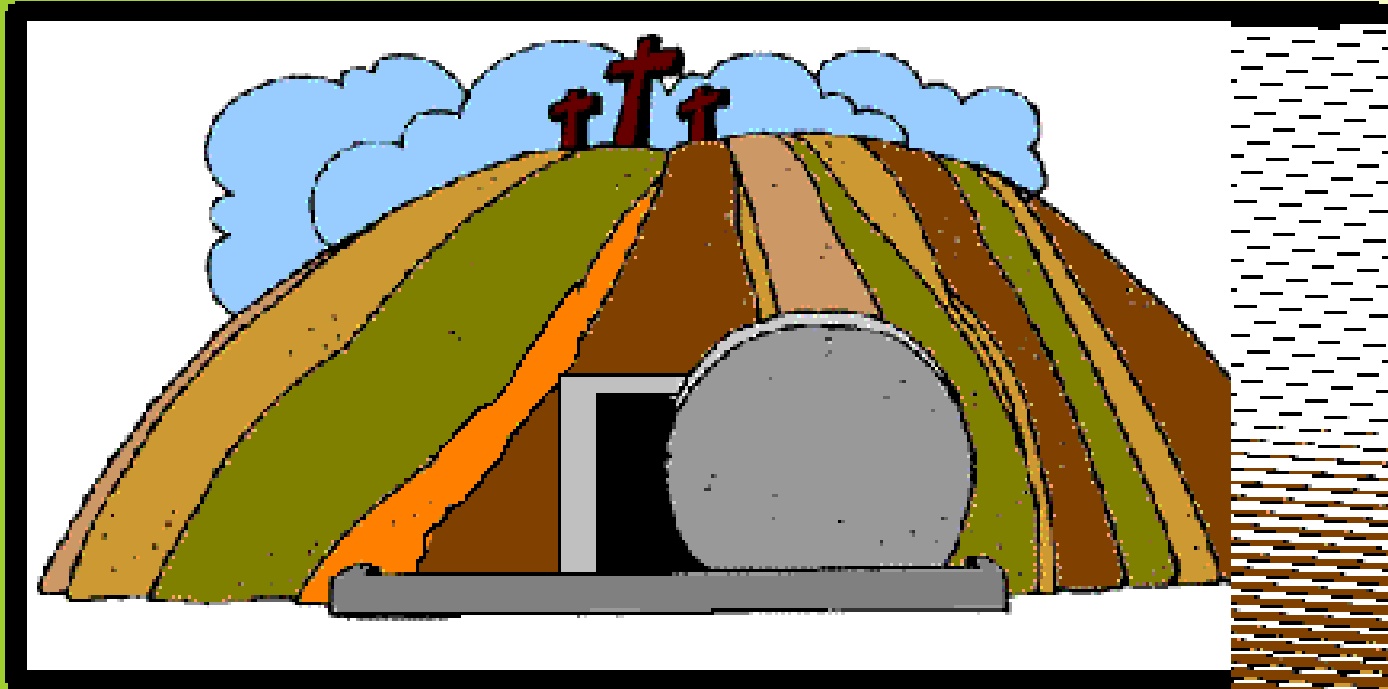


Jesus was hung on a cross; a soldier pierced his side with a spear. Eventually he died. His family and friends were very upset.

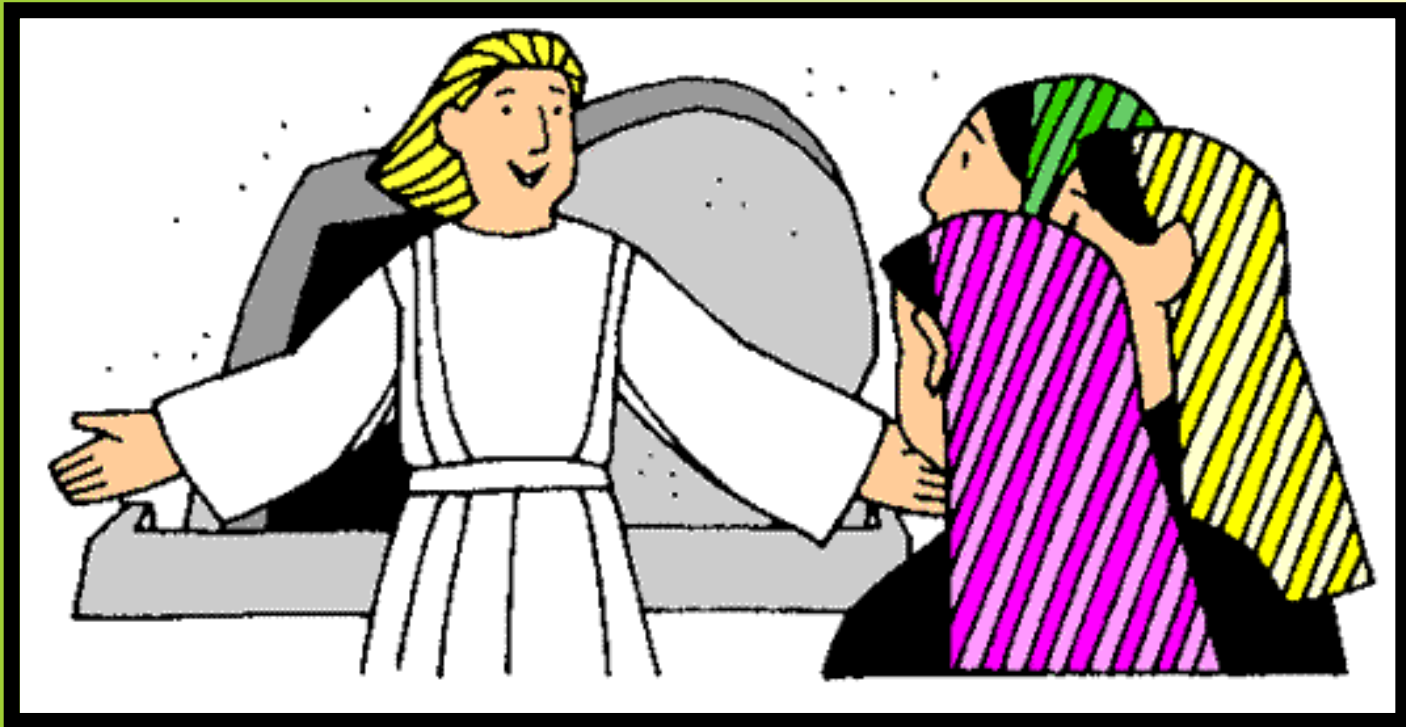


They were allowed to place his dead body in a tomb (a sort of grave), but they had to do this quickly because it was the start of the Jewish holy day, Shabbat.

Easter Sunday

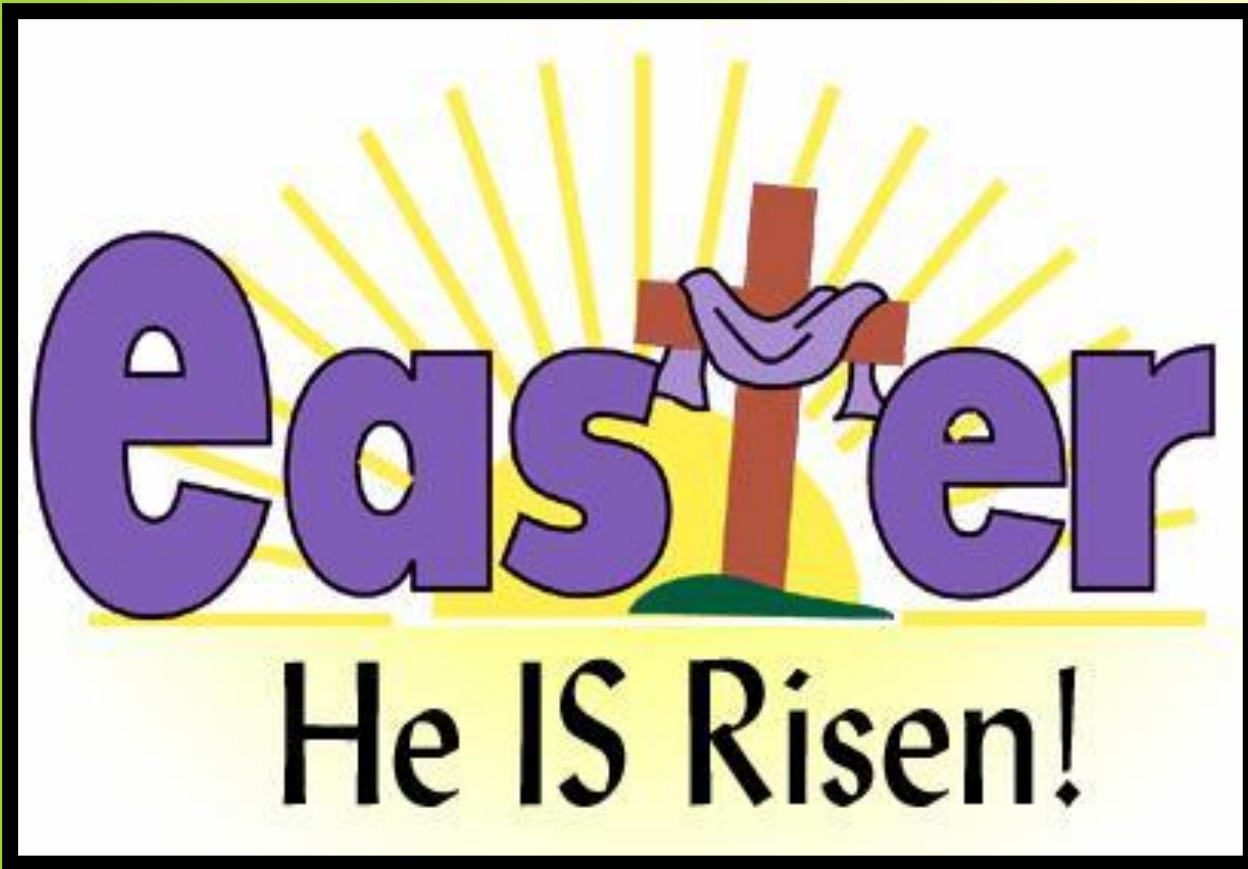


On the Sunday, the third day after Jesus' death on the cross, some of his friends went to his tomb and found it empty. Jesus had gone! They were very upset.



They saw somebody near the tomb and asked where Jesus was. “Who has taken his body?” they asked.

They were told by an angel that his body had not been stolen, but that he was risen. He was alive!



Over the next weeks Jesus appeared to his friends many times, until they all believed that Jesus had risen, he was alive.
This is what Christians celebrate at Easter.