



27 March 2026

## ***EASTER IS COMING!***

Are you ready for Easter? It is now just over a week away.

I recognize that for some this question may sound a bit strange. Others who, for example, follow a Lenten tradition with its 40-day season of preparation for Easter, are well familiar with preparing to celebrate Christ's resurrection.

It is not surprising to most of us that many Christians devote more time and energy to preparing for Christmas than Easter. Granted, some of that may be prompted by the secular and commercial "Christmas." We should ask ourselves the question of why many people and churches spend more time and effort in preparing for and celebrating Christmas than Easter.

You know the familiar events of Easter week. We begin in our worship services with Palm Sunday as we focus on Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, trying to sort out the questions and sharpen our focus on why that was and is important.

Then Friday we will meet for our Good Friday service in which we remember Christ's death on the cross. This may bring deep and difficult questions and feelings. But it is important. Jesus death and resurrection are vital to providing forgiveness of our sins and life with God. We dare not rush by it to Easter. It is not "Easter, Act I".

We come back to the question, "Are you ready for Easter?" Are you ready to reflect and then celebrate in a way that truly honors God and is meaningful to you?

One pastor confessed, "I have more trouble getting ready for Easter than any other special day in the life of the church." He concluded that was because "there is no day any bigger", and that makes him feel inadequate. Yes, he realizes along with the apostle Paul that none of us are adequate in ourselves, "but our adequacy is from God, who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant", but it takes disciplined focus not to let that, or anything, get in the way of relying on God and so really preparing and then truly celebrating Christ's resurrection, His victory over sin and death.



How about a few bullet points for action starting today, and through Easter?

- Make sure that you are current with God. Even in the most ordinary of times our days can be hectic, can distract us from spending time with God in His word and prayer. In light of and along with that we can find ourselves out of touch with God. There may be some sins that we have not confessed, and challenges we have not taken on.
- In addition to any pattern of Bible reading you may have, take the time to read through the gospel accounts leading up to Jesus entering Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and then on through Easter. Yes, the facts are familiar. But read the accounts slowly, think deeply about what Jesus was saying and doing, about the importance of that for you.
- Listen to, sing the songs of this season, about Christ the King, about his death on the cross and His resurrection. Let them reinforce the Scripture's message, draw you into thankful praise to God for Jesus and what He has done for you.
- As Jesus served His disciples in those difficult days, let that motivate you to be aware, alert, take the initiative to serve others during this week, both people you know and some you don't know. Jesus is our King, but He came to serve, not focused on being served.
- One more. The reality of Easter is at the heart of the gospel. And, as you know, the gospel "is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes." Our society is saturated with people who not only do not know Jesus, they do not know much or anything about Him. Let your light shine in all you do, and speak the truth of Christ to those who need to know it, to know Jesus.

Easter is coming! Let's be ready to celebrate in a way that pleases God, that truly draws praise and glory to Him.

*Pastor Lyle*