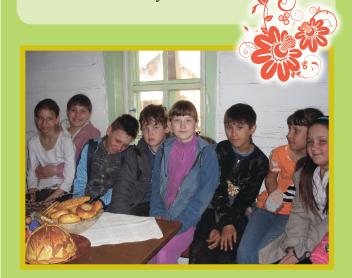


Easter is a religious holiday when old traditions are observed. It has this name from the word EAST where the sun rises. Christians relate the rising of the sun to the resurrection of Jesus and their own spiritual rebirth. At the same time Easter is celebrated as the spring holiday. The Easter includes five days: Clean Thursday, Good Friday, Passion Saturday, Easter Sunday and Easter Monday.



People do not work and go to the church where they can listen to wonderful religious singing. On Easter Sunday people have a special dinner. Many children like to hit the eggs. Some of them prefer the rolling of dyeing eggs down the hill. The winner takes away all eggs with itself.



Easter is a day when people say "Christ has risen from the dead!" and get the answer "He is risen indeed!" After that they exchange a triple kiss. Many modern Easter symbols come from pagan times. They are: The Cross, The Lamb, Eggs, Easter Rabbit and Easter Pie. In Russia all churches and cathedrals are decorated with pussy willow branches.



Easter like Christmas is a great time for giving and receiving presents but an Easter present traditionally is an egg. The old custom of dyeing or painting the shells of eggs is still maintained in some parts of our country. An egg symbolize the tomb from which Christ rose. Also people have a kulich for breakfast.

