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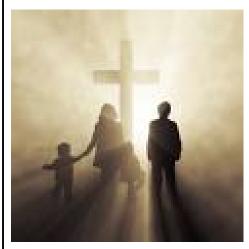


Senator Jason Crowell – Serving Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Madison, Mississippi, Perry, and Scott Counties.

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A Celebration of Easter

The coming of spring brings warmer weather and blooming flowers, but the season also marks an important holiday. Easter Sunday is approaching, a day when many will gather with family and friends to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. This is one of the holiest celebrations in the Christian faith, and, for me, it serves as an important opportunity for reflection and prayer.



The Bible says that Christ was crucified on the eve of Passover, a Jewish celebration. Many early Christians were of Jewish origin and regarded Easter as a new feature of the Passover festival, a commemoration of the advent of the Messiah as foretold by the prophets. While a historic argument has persisted over the exact date to celebrate the miracle of Christ's resurrection, the meaning of this holy day has remained since the very first Easter described in the

Bible by the Disciples.

Easter is really a celebration of two events. The first, we observe on Good Friday, which falls on March 21 this year. On this date, we mark the day when Jesus took the sins of the world upon himself through his death. In doing so, Jesus affirms the promise of the forgiveness of our sins. The grace of Easter is Jesus' payment for the sins of all the world and the fulfilled the promise of ever-lasting life for all who take Him into their heart, as blessed Lord and beautiful Savior. This solemn occasion is also an important moment to

reflect on our own past and the forgiveness that is possible in our lives.

The other event we observe during the Easter celebration is a much more celebratory event. On Sunday, March 23, we will gather to observe the day when Jesus conquered death and arose from the grave. Through this miracle, He affirmed the promise of eternal life. "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (1 Peter 1:3). The fact that this holy day falls in the spring is no coincidence. As the cold winter begins to literally melt away, we are more likely to focus on this time of rebirth and renewal—a time for all of us to reflect on the positive future on the horizon.

I hope that your Easter celebration will be full of joy and happiness. I extend my best wishes to you this Easter as you celebrate your faith, your family, and the season of growth.

Contact Me

As always, I appreciate hearing your comments, opinions and concerns. Please feel free to contact me in Jefferson City at (573) 751-2459. You may write to me at Jason Crowell; Missouri Senate; State Capitol; Jefferson City, MO 65101, or email me at: jcrowell@senate.mo.gov or visit me on the web at http://www.senate.mo.gov/crowell.

Contact Information

Capitol Office

State Capitol Building Room 323 Jefferson City, MO 65101

Website: http://www.senate.mo.gov/crowell

Phone Number: 573.751.2459
Fax: 573.522.9289