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Lutherans generally fast from the Eucharist on Good Friday. Rather, it is celebrated in remembrance of the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday and at the Vigil of Easter. One practice among Lutheran churches is to celebrate a tenebrae service on Good Friday, typically conducted in candlelight and consisting of a collection of passion accounts from the four gospels. While being called "Tenebrae", it bears little resemblance to the now-suppressed Catholic monastic and of the same name.[95] The Good Friday liturgy appointed in Evangelical Lutheran Worship, the worship book of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, specifies a liturgy similar to a revised Roman Canon liturgy. A rite for adoration of the crucified Christ includes the optional singing of the Solemn Reproaches in an updated and revised translation which eliminates some of the anti-Jewish overtones in previous versions. Many Lutheran churches have Good Friday services, such as the Three Hours' Agony centered on the remembrance of the "Seven Last Words," sayings of Jesus assembled from the four gospels, while others hold a liturgy that places an emphasis on the triumph of the cross, and a singular biblical account of the Passion narrative from the Gospel of John.[96] Along with observing a general Lenten fast,[94] many Lutherans emphasize the importance of Good Friday as a day of fasting within the calendar.[4][5] A Handbook for the Discipline of Lent recommends the Lutheran guideline to "Fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday with only one simple meal during the day, usually without meat".[97] In the Anglican Communion, the Black Fast has been historically observed by devout believers.[98] The Black Fast was especially popular during the 19th century as it sought to imitate "the fasting of the ancient church." [98] The 1662 Book of Common Prayer did not specify a particular rite to be observed on Good Friday but local custom came to mandate an assortment of services, including the Seven Last Words from the Cross and a three-hour service consisting of Matins, Ante-communion (using the Reserved Sacrament in high church parishes) and Evensong. In recent times, [when?] revised editions of the Prayer Book and Common Worship have re-introduced pre-Reformation forms of observance of Good Friday corresponding to those in today's Roman Catholic Church, with special nods to the rites that had been observed in the Church of England prior to the Henrician, Edwardian and Elizabethan reforms, including Creeping to the Cross.[99] A United Methodist minister prostrates at the start of the Good Friday liturgy at Holy Family Church, in accordance with the rubrics in the Book of Worship. The processional cross is veiled in black, the liturgical colour associated with Good Friday in Methodist Churches. Altar and cross veiled in a Methodist church on Maundy Thursday in preparation for Good Friday Many Methodist denominations celebrate Good Friday with fasting.[3][100] as well as a service of worship based on the Seven Last Words from the Cross; this liturgy is known as the Three Hours Devotion as it starts at noon and concludes at 3 pm, the latter being the time that Jesus died on the cross.[101][102] On Maundy Thursday, the altar and the cross are usually veiled in black for Good Friday, as black is the liturgical colour for Good Friday in the United Methodist Church. A wooden cross may sit in front of the bare chancel.[103] Moravians hold a Lovefeast on Good Friday as they receive Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday. Communicants of the Moravian Church practice the Good Friday tradition of cleaning gravestones in Moravian cemeteries.[8] In the Reformed tradition, Good Friday is one of the evangelical feasts and is thus widely observed with church services, which feature the Solemn Reproaches in the pattern of Psalm 78, towards the end of the liturgy.[104] Many Protestant churches hold an Interdenominational service with Lord's Supper.[105] Good Friday service in a Catholic church, Ireland Good Friday procession in San Lorenzo Maggiore, Italy In many countries and territories with a strong Christian tradition such as Australia, Argentina, Bermuda, Brazil, Canada, the countries of the Caribbean, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Malta, Mexico, New Zealand,[106][107][108] Peru, the Philippines, Portugal, the Scandinavian countries, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and Venezuela, the day is observed as a public or federal holiday. In the United States, 12 states observe Good Friday as state holiday: Connecticut, Texas, Delaware, Hawaii, Indiana, Tennessee, Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, New Jersey, North Carolina and North Dakota. One associated custom is strict adherence to the Black Fast, where believers fast from food and liquids during the day and after sunset, a vegetarian meal with water is consumed.[109][110][111] St. Ambrose, St. Chrysostom and St. Basil attest to the practice.[112] The processions of the day, hymns "Crux fidelis" by King John of Portugal, and Eberlin's "Tenebrae factae sunt", followed by "Vexilla Regis" is sung, translated from Latin as the standards in the King advance, and then follow, a ceremony that is not a real Mass, it is called the "Mass of the Pre-Sanctified". This custom is respected also by forgoing the Mass, this is to take heed to the solemnity of the Sacrifice of Calvary. This is where the host of the prior day is placed at the altar, incensed, elevated so "that it may be seen by the people" and consumed. Germany and some other countries have laws prohibiting certain acts, such as dancing and horse racing, that are seen as profaning the solemn nature of the day.[10][11] Good Friday is a holiday under state and territory laws in all states and territories in Australia.[113] Generally speaking, shops in all Australian states (but not in the two territories of the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory) are required to remain closed for the duration of Good Friday, although there are certain shops which are permitted to open and other shops can apply for exemptions. All schools and universities close on Good Friday in Australia, and Good Friday falls within the school holidays in most years in all states and territories except the Northern Territory, although many states now commence their school holidays in early April regardless of Easter. In 2024, for example, when Good Friday fell on 29 March, only Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia had school holidays which coincided with Good Friday. [114] The vast majority of businesses are closed on Good Friday, although many recreational businesses, such as the Sydney Royal Easter Show, open on Good Friday as among non-religious families Good Friday is a popular day to indulge in such activities. The descent from the cross, commemorated in Vespers of Holy and Great Friday, Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Toronto, Canada In Canada, Good Friday is a federal statutory holiday. In the province of Quebec "employers can choose to give the day off either on Good Friday or Easter Monday." [115] In an online article posted on Catholic News Agency by Alejandro Bermúdez on 31 March 2012, Cuban President Raúl Castro, with the Communist Party and his advisers, decreed that Good Friday that year would be a holiday. This was Castro's response to a request made personally to him by Pope Benedict XVI during the latter's Apostolic Visitation to the island and Leon, Mexico that month. The move followed the pattern of small advances in Cuba's relations with the Vatican, mirroring Pope John Paul II's success in getting Fidel Castro to declare Christmas Day a holiday [116] Both Good Friday and Christmas are now annual holidays in Cuba. In Germany Good Friday is known as Karfreitag (kara means "sorrow" in Old High German), it is a Stiller Feiertag (silent holiday), and there are strict rules banning activities deemed disrespectful to Christians. Rules vary among the sixteen different federal states, but often prohibit dancing and the use of loud appliances such as lawnmowers and leaf blowers. Nightclubs are shut, and films that may be shown in cinemas are restricted. In recent times the holiday has been informally called Karfreitag by extreme car enthusiasts, including those from other countries who visit Germany, who tune cars illegally and hold illegal races on public roads. Police seek to prevent unauthorised tuning, illegal races, noise, and pollution. Offenders can be fined and have points put on their licences, and in some cases lose their licences and have their cars confiscated.[117] In Hong Kong, Good Friday was designated a public holiday in the Holidays Ordinance, 1875.[118] Good Friday continues to be a holiday after the transfer of sovereignty from the UK to China in 1997.[119] Government offices, banks, post offices and most offices are closed on Good Friday. In the Republic of Ireland, Good Friday is not an official public holiday, but most non-retail businesses close for the day. Up until 2018 it was illegal to sell alcoholic beverages on Good Friday, with some exceptions, so pubs and off-licences generally closed.[120] Critics of the ban included the catering and tourism sector, but surveys showed that the general public were divided on the issue.[121][122] In Northern Ireland, a similar ban operates until 5 pm on Good Friday.[123] Although Malaysia is a Muslim majority country, Good Friday is declared as a public holiday in the states of Sabah and Sarawak in East Malaysia as there is a significant Christian indigenous population in both states.[124] Holy Week procession in Malta The Holy Week commemorations reach their peak on Good Friday as the Roman Catholic Church celebrates the Passion of Jesus. Solemn celebrations take place in all churches together with processions in different villages around Malta and Gozo. During the celebration, the narrative of the passion is read in some localities, while the Adoration of the Cross follows. Good Friday processions take place in Birgu, Bormla, Għaxaq, Lurja, Mosta, Naxxar, Paola, Qormi, Rabat, Senglea, Valletta, Żebbuġ (Gittà Rohan) and Żejtun. Processions in Gozo occur in Nadur, Victoria (St. George and Cathedral), Xagħra and Żebbuġ. Gozo [citation needed] In New Zealand, Good Friday is a legal holiday[125] and is a day of mandatory school closure for all New Zealand state and integrated schools.[126] Good Friday is also a restricted trading day in New Zealand, which means that unemxpected shops are not permitted to open on this day.[127] In the predominantly Roman Catholic Philippines, the day is commemorated with street processions, the Way of the Cross, the chanting of the Pasyon, Siate Palabras or the Seven Last Words of Jesus on the Cross, and performances of the Senākulo or Passion play. Some devotees engage in self-flagellation and even have themselves crucified as expressions of penance despite health risks and strong disapproval from the Church.[128] Station 14: Jesus is laid in the tomb (Baliwag Church, 2024) Church bells are not rung and Masses are not celebrated, while television features movies, documentaries and other shows focused on the religious event and other topics related to the Catholic faith, broadcasting mostly religious content. Malls and shops are generally closed, as are restaurants as it is the second of three public holidays within the week.[citation needed] After three o'clock in the afternoon (the time at which Jesus is traditionally believed to have died), the faithful venerate the cross in the local church and follow the procession of the Burial of Jesus.[citation needed] In Cebu and many parts of the Visayan Islands, people usually eat binignit and biko as a form of fasting.[129][130] In Polish churches, a tableau of Christ's Tomb is unveiled in the sanctuary. Many of the faithful spend long hours into the night grieving at the Tomb, where it is customary to kiss the wounds on the Lord's body. A life-size figure of Jesus lying in his tomb is widely visited by the faithful, especially on Holy Saturday. The tableaux may include flowers, candles, figures of angels standing watch, and the three crosses atop Mt Calvary, and much more. Each parish strives to come up with the most artistically and religiously evocative arrangement in which the Blessed Sacrament, draped in a filmy veil, is prominently displayed.[citation needed] Good Friday is a public holiday in Singapore.[131][132] Nazarenos wearing capirotes, in Málaga, Spain Main articles: Holy Week in Spain, Holy Week in Málaga, Holy Week in Seville, Holy Week in Valladolid, Holy Week in Viveiro, and Holy Week in Zamora Hot cross buns are traditionally toasted and eaten on Good Friday in Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.[133] In the UK Good Friday was historically a common law holiday; it is today recognised as an official public holiday.[134] (bank holiday). All state schools are closed and most businesses treat it as a holiday for staff; however, many retail stores remain open. Government services in Northern Ireland operate as normal on Good Friday, closing instead on Easter Tuesday. There has traditionally been no horse racing on Good Friday in the UK. However, in 2008, betting shops and stores opened for the first time on this day.[135] and in 2014 Lingfield Park and Musselburgh staged the UK's first Good Friday race meetings.[136][137] The BBC Radio 4 7 am News broadcast on Good Friday is traditionally introduced with a verse from Isaac Watts' hymn "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross". The tradition of Easter plays includes 1960 Eastertime performance of Good Friday: A Play in Verse (1916) Artists Ursula O'Leary (Procula), and William Devlin as Pontius Pilate, perform with the atmospheric sound effects of the BBC Radiohonic Workshop. The Hugh Stewart production for the Home Service used soundware such as the EMS Synthi 100 and ARP Odyssey 1.[138] In the United States, Good Friday is not a federal government holiday.[139] The postal service operates, and banks regulated by the federal government do not close for Good Friday.[140] Some states, counties, municipalities, and territories observe the holiday. Good Friday is a state holiday in Connecticut,[141] Delaware,[142] Florida,[143] Hawaii,[144] Indiana,[145] Kentucky (half-day),[146] Louisiana,[147] New Jersey,[148] North Carolina,[149] North Dakota,[150] Tennessee[151] and Texas.[152][153] and in the territories of Guam,[154] U.S. Virgin Islands,[155] American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands and Puerto Rico.[156] State and local government offices and courts are closed, as well as some banks and post offices in these states.[citation needed] and in those counties and municipalities where Good Friday is observed as a holiday. The stock markets have chosen to be closed on Good Friday.[157][158] but the foreign exchange and bond trading markets open for a partial business day.[159][160] Some public schools and universities are closed on Good Friday if it falls within spring break. In some governmental contexts Good Friday has been referred to by a generic name such as "spring holiday".[161][162][163] In 1999, in the case of *Bridenbaugh v. O'Bannon*, an Indiana state employee sued the governor for giving state employees Good Friday as a day off. The US Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals ruled against the plaintiff, stating that the government could give state employees a paid day off when that day is a religious holiday, including Good Friday, but only so long as the state can provide a valid secular purpose that coincides with the obvious religious purpose of the holiday.[164] See also: Date of Easter Dates for Good Friday 2018–2032In Gregorian dates Year Western Eastern 2018 March 30April 6 2019 April 19April 26 2020 April 10April 17 2021 April 2April 9 2022 April 15April 22 2023 April 7April 14 2024 March 29May 3 2025 April 18 2026 April 3April 10 2027 March 26April 30 2028 April 14 2029 March 30April 6 2030 April 19April 26 2031 April 11 2032 March 26April 30 Good Friday is the Friday before Easter, which is calculated differently in Eastern Christianity and Western Christianity (see Computus for details). Easter falls on the first Sunday following the Paschal Full Moon, the full moon on or after 21 March, taken to be the date of the vernal equinox. The Western calculation uses the Gregorian calendar, while the Eastern calculation uses the Julian calendar, whose 21 March now corresponds to the Gregorian calendar's 3 April. The calculations for identifying the date of the full moon also differ.[citation needed] In Eastern Christianity, Easter can fall between 22 March and 25 April on Julian Calendar (thus between 4 April and 8 May in terms of the Gregorian calendar, during the period 1900 and 2099), so Good Friday can fall between 20 March and 23 April, inclusive (or between 2 April and 6 May in terms of the Gregorian calendar).[citation needed] Good Friday and other named days and day ranges around Lent and Easter in Western Christianity, with the fasting days of Lent numbered Good Friday assumed particular importance in the plot of Richard Wagner's music drama Parsifal, which contains an orchestral interlude known as the "Good Friday Music".[165] Some Baptist congregations,[166] the Philadelphia Church of God, [167] and some non-denominational churches oppose the observance of Good Friday, regarding it as a so-called "papist" tradition, and instead observe the Crucifixion of Jesus on Wednesday as the Jewish sacrifice of the Passover Lamb (which some/many Christians believe is an Old Testament pointer to Jesus Christ). A Wednesday Crucifixion of Jesus allows for him to be in the tomb ("heart of the earth") for three days and three nights as he told the Pharisees he would (Matthew 12:40), rather than two nights and a day (by inclusive counting, as was the norm at that time) if he had died on a Friday.[168][169] Christianity portalHolidays portalGood Friday Prayer Good Friday Prayer for the Jews Easter season Passion music) Ascension of Jesus Life of Jesus in the New Testament Salvation in Christianity ^ Franklin M. Segler; Randall Bradley (2006). Christian Worship: Its Theology And Practice. B&H Publishing Group. p. 226. ISBN 978-0-8054-4067-6. Archived from the original on 3 October 2021. Retrieved 13 April 2012. ^ Gilman, Daniel Coit; Peck, Harry Thurston; Colby, Frank Moore (1903). The New International Encyclopædia. Dodd, Mead and Company. p. 77. 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Originally pilgrims observed these "stations" in Jerusalem, on the Via Dolorosa, the "sorrowful way" from the fortress Antonia in Jerusalem to Golgota outside the city gates, but they exported them around the world so that even those who could not make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land could still pray through them during Lent and Holy Week especially. ^ a b "PHOTOS: Cleaning Moravian gravestones, a Good Friday tradition". Winston-Salem Journal. 10 April 2020.[permanent dead link] ^ Harper's New Monthly Magazine, Volume 36, Issue 214. Harper & Brothers. 1868. p. 521. In England Good-Friday and Christmas are the only close holidays of the year when the shops are all closed and the churches opened. ^ a b Petre, Jonathan (21 March 2008). "Good Friday gambling angers churches". The Telegraph. Archived from the original on 11 November 2021. Retrieved 5 April 2018. 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