

KARFREITAG / GOOD FRIDAY

Tag # 3: (1) name—Good Friday / Karfreitag

(2) customs and traditions:

- Next comes Good Friday, the Friday before Easter.
- This is a very important Christian holiday, and a serious one, too. This is the day on which Christians remember Christ's death on the cross.
- All places of amusement, businesses, stores, and places of work are closed.
- It is celebrated as a day of retirement and sorrow.
- It is one of the most solemn religious festivals in all of Germany, whether in the Catholic or in the Protestant areas.
- There are 3-hour church services to recall the agony of Christ on cross.
- In some European countries, bells are tied, so they can't ring on this day, while Catholic churches do not ring their bells from Green Thursday till Easter.
- Sometimes the children are told that the bells have been sent to the Pope in Rome for consecration.
- In some villages, children walk around with "Good Friday Rattles" (wooden noise makers of various kinds), which are supposed to replace the ringing of the bells.
- Eggs laid on this day are also regarded as bringing good luck.

On *Karfreitag* (Good Friday) people traditionally eat a fish dinner with their family. Then on Easter Sunday, the whole family gathers together to celebrate with a festive meal. The main dish for this meal is often lamb, since it represents innocence and humility.

Karfreitag (Good Friday) is the day Christians remember Christ's death on the cross. Church bells are silent on that day. Many go to church on that day during the hours that Jesus is said to have hung on the cross and died.

It is followed by "Karfreitag," Good Friday, the Friday before Easter. This is a very important Christian holiday, and a serious one, too, for this is the day on which Christians remember Christ's death on the cross. Catholic churches do not ring their bells from Green Thursday until Easter. Sometimes the children are told that the bells have been sent to the Pope in Rome for consecration. In some villages children walk around with "Good Friday Rattles" — wooden noise makers of various kinds — which are supposed to replace the ringing of the bells, but in reality of course they do this because they enjoy the noise. At least at Easter Catholics are

obliged to participate in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper (the Holy Communion) after having confessed their sins to the priest. In general, however, the number of churchgoers is smaller at Easter than at Christmas.

Good Friday (Karfreitag) and Easter Monday (Ostermontag) are legal holidays in Germany, and so are Ascension Day (Himmelfahrt) and the Monday after Whitsunday/Pentecost (Pfingsten).