

GRÜNDONNERSTAG / GREEN THURSDAY

The first and most probably most common thesis is the meaning of *Grüne* ("Greens") as sinful people. After the fasting period in the week prior to Easter, these sinners made public were allowed to return to the church community as people without sin.

A second thesis is hidden in here – Gründonnerstag could also derive from the notion of *grîn donerstac*, where *grînen* is an Old High German word for crying. Hence, this thesis means that the sinners cry on this day to show the regrets they have.

Another thesis also links to greens, but in the more known way – as vegetables. Since probably the 14th century, it was tradition to especially eat green vegetables on *Gründonnerstag*.

Those include for example kale, salad and young sprouts, which are found everywhere in spring. The reasons for this diet are that it combines the requirements for fasting with the belief that spring vegetables get everyone's energy going, so to say.

As you can see, the origin of *Gründonnerstag* is a tricky business. But at least it doesn't mean that everyone has to dress in green.

Examples:

Der Gründonnerstag ist kein Feiertag in Deutschland.

The Holy Thursday isn't a public holiday in Germany.

Am Gründonnerstag traf sich Jesus zum letzten Mal mit seinen Jüngern.

The Holy Thursday marks the day Jesus met his apostles for the last time.

Ich weiß nicht, warum es Gründonnerstag heißt.

I don't know why it's called "Gründonnerstag."