



# Easter in Georgia

Presenter: Luka Iremashvili, Mariam Chanturia, Barbare Tatanashvili



# Easter celebration

Easter is celebrated between April 4 to May 8. The duration of Easter fast is 40 days. These weeks are called passion weeks. On Saturday night before Easter people go to churches or the ceremony is broadcast on TV and we watch it.





# Grow Easter grass

Locals start to grow Easter grass one week before Easter Sunday, i.e. on Palm Sunday. Grass is another essential attribute to the Georgian Easter table – jejili – newly grown, grass, which is a symbol of new life and renewal. For jejili, any crockery of any shape and size, You should put cotton wool layer on a plate, moisten it with warm water and put a 1 centimeter thick wheat seed layer over it. The plate should be put in a warm and bright place. Don't forget to water it in the morning and evening so as not to let the cotton wool dry out. That's all. Fresh green wheat grass will grow in a week in your home, after which Easter eggs can be put in the grass and placed on a table. Christians believe that green grass symbolizes the new life Christ gave us with his resurrection





## Greeting tradition

On Easter Georgians greet each other with the words “Christ is Risen!” instead of saying “hello”. The answer comes “Indeed”. On this day the doors of all houses are open to guests. One can taste homemade Paska (Easter cake) and Easter red eggs in each family.



## Easter traditions in Georgia

On Mondays, Georgians visit graveyards of their relatives to pay respect to the deceased. Due to the fact that Easter signifies the resurrection of Christ, Georgians love celebrating it with their entire family, dead or living. They are cheerful on graveyards, as they come here to reunite with their relatives. It's common to give a toast to honor the deceased.





# Easter meal in Georgia

Apart from red eggs, Georgians have a special meal for Easter Sunday. It's a lamb meat stew with fresh plums and spices called Chakapuli. The special cake is called Paska, which has a hill-shape and raisins inside. Georgian's love to eat it as a dessert or a snack during the day. You can also find ones which have dried fruits.





# Red painted eggs

Red Friday is the day when every family dyes eggs red before the sunset. Madder roots (Endro in Georgian) or red onion peels are the main ingredients and boiling them produces a red color. However, sometimes if the peels or roots are not of good quality, the eggs turn out a different color than blood red. It's believed that eggs symbolize the rebirth of Christ and eternal life. Cracking those red-colored eggs is another custom with which Georgians start the day. We choose some of the strongest eggs from the batch by slightly rapping it on their teeth. Those eggs that make a clear sound tend to be the strongest. Each member of the household chooses their strongest egg and starts to crack it by tapping both sides of eggs on each other. Whoever has the fewest broken eggs is the winner. In general, the egg is a symbol of life, because from it a living being is born, and Jesus Christ gave us life. Red is considered blood because Christ sanctified and blessed life with His blood.





**Thanks for your attention!**