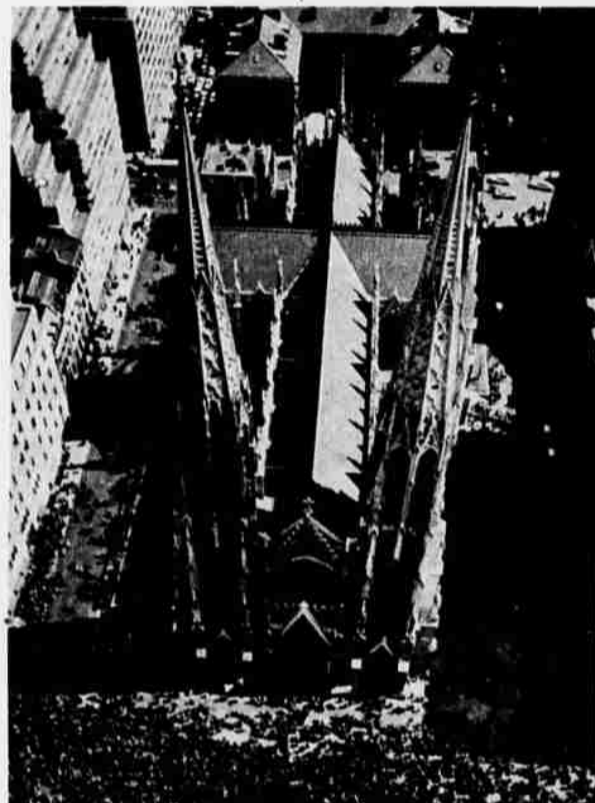




WHEN EASTER COMES next Sunday, a million people, weather permitting, will stroll informally on New York's Fifth Avenue. They will be concentrated between St. Patrick's Cathedral and St. Thomas' Church. The rich and the not-so-rich will dress in their finest new clothes to present the most swank Easter parade in the entire country. Photographers will be scurrying about and policemen will be busy controlling the crowd. This is the Easter frosting on the festive celebration of a great city.

Easter is very different for many more millions of people in the United States. For most of them it is the festive memorial of the Resurrection of Christ. In joyous song and Sacred Scripture, in old stories retold and in colorful ceremonies,



EASTER ACROSS the U.S.

Here is how our great religious faiths will celebrate Christ's Resurrection next Sunday.

by the Rev. Clarence Seidenspinner
Pastor, First Methodist Church, Racine, Wis.



there will be lifted out of the past that Spring morning over 1,900 years ago when Our Lord rose from His sepulchre to live again.

For many people Easter begins at dawn with a sunrise service. The largest of these services is held near Lawton, Okla. Each year 200,000 worshipers drive to the hill country to see this magnificent Easter pageant presented on a massive stage. One by one the great scenes of Jesus' life and Resurrection appear with dramatic impact. The scarlet-streaked sky of dawn is filled with song, and when the disc of the sun rises above the rim of the world, the service ends with Handel's Hallelujah Chorus.

This service was first conceived by Mark Wallock, a pastor near Lawton. He dreamed of seeing a great outdoor pageant in the hills. The next Easter he and some of his church members presented the first one before a handful of people. The next year more people came. Interest grew and other local churches



Americans celebrate Easter in a variety of ways. In Washington, D. C., youngsters spruce up for the annual egg roll on the lawn of the White House (top). In New York City, millions throng the area around St. Patrick's Cathedral for a fashion parade (left). Lawton, Okla., produces a pageant (right), and the Hollywood Bowl holds sunrise service (bottom).