

1 My fellow Americans,

2 This is a season of great hope.

3 This week, Jewish families across our country, and around the
4 world, celebrate Passover and retell the story of God's
5 deliverance of the Jewish people. The story of the Exodus is a
6 story of freedom. It is the story of an incredible people who
7 were liberated from oppression and raised up the face of
8 humankind.

9 Down through the centuries, the Jewish People have lived through
10 one persecution after another—and yet, they persevered and
11 thrived and uplifted the world beyond measure. And now, the
12 State of Israel stands as a monument to their faith and
13 endurance.

14 Another day of faith and celebration is also upon us.

15 This Easter Sunday, Christians celebrate the resurrection of
16 Christ and the promise of eternal salvation. It is a holy day
17 of reverence and worship; it is a sacred time that fills the
18 spirit of our Nation with the faith of our people.

19 America is a Nation of believers.

20 As families gather in houses of worship across the Nation, we
21 are grateful for the tremendous blessings of this land, our
22 home. We have a beautiful country, an abundant countryside, and
23 an amazing people with a truly bright and wonderful future.

24 From the beginning, America has been a place that has cherished
25 the freedom of worship. That is the promise the first settlers
26 saw in our vast continent—and it is the promise that our bravest
27 warriors have protected for all of our citizens in centuries
28 since, a long time ago.

29 Sadly, many around the globe do not enjoy this freedom—and one
30 of the gravest threats to religious freedom remains the threat
31 of terror.

32 On Palm Sunday, as Christians around the world celebrate the
33 beginning of Holy Week, ISIS murdered at least 45 people and
34 injured over 100 others at two Christian churches in Egypt.

35 We condemn this barbaric attack. We mourn for those who lost
36 loved ones.

37 And we pray for the strength and wisdom to achieve a better
38 tomorrow—one where good people of all faiths, Christians and
39 Muslims and Jewish and Hindu, can follow their hearts and
40 worship according to their conscience.

41 With God's grace, life always triumphs over death, freedom
42 overcomes oppression, and faith extinguishes fear. This is the
43 source of our hope—and our confidence in the future.

44 I also want to give a special message to those struggling
45 Americans who have felt for too long the bitter taste of
46 hardship. I want you to know: this White House is fighting for
47 you. We are fighting for every American who has been left
48 behind. We are fighting for the right of all citizens to enjoy
49 safety and peace—and to work and live with the dignity that all
50 Children of God are entitled to know.

51 As long as we have faith in each other, and trust in God, we
52 will succeed.

53 Thank you. Have a Happy Easter, and a Happy Passover. God bless
54 you. And God bless America.

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