

it is known before this and is used by Melito of Sardis, ca. 165. But "first day" seems to be the earliest common nomenclature and it is doubtful (my opinion) if the term "Lord's Day" in Revelation 1 is to the first day of the week...more likely, I think, it refers to the day of Divine Judgment, i.e., The Day of the Lord. "Sunday" is a pagan name of Norse origin (apparently) and so does not come into common usage until the time of the Gregorian Calendar. A whole complex of services builds around Sunday after the legalization of the church and while "mass" was performed in most Christian churches on other days as well, Sunday became the day of fullest service to God.

EASTER

Undoubtedly this was the most sacred season of the year. The term is from the Saxon word for the goddess of spring, Ostara. The key idea in the celebration is the crucifixion and the spring resurrection. This coincided with the spring feast of Astara when the world was reborn with the coming of spring. With Nisan and Passover being spring affairs, it could not be avoided that the secular world would coincide with the sacred and that, with the legalization of the church, would allow the church to take the common name and apply it to its own time. This is an amalgamation which you may not like, but which could not be avoided and should not cause us any undue stress. The mere use of the term should not make us think that pagans were taking over the church. It is easier to apply a common term than to teach a new one. I am not saying that is the preferable course, but it is the most likely one and the most generally followed. But about Easter a host of traditions quickly sprung up...many of them not in the better interests of the testimony.

The date for the celebration of Easter was determined at Nicaea in 325 after two centuries of dispute. It is observed on the :

first Sunday
following the first day of the new moon
after the spring equinox!

If this falls on a Friday-Saturday combination, the celebration is postponed one week. But the Easter