

Easter at Home 2020

Easter Sunday, Year A

April 12, 2020

Use this resource for your personal or family devotion and worship time during Easter.

We've included several activities for you to do. You will begin on Saturday evening just before bed. Then you will wake up in the morning, gather in silence as you prepare the table with fancy decorations, get dressed, have breakfast, search for a flower, and think about and discuss where you see God right now. Don't worry, just because it's fancy doesn't mean it has to be a fancy meal, you can order breakfast if you'd like. If you participated in the Maundy Thursday activity where you washed your table, left it bare, and put all your religious decorations away, you will be able to take them out of storage on Easter morning.



SATURDAY NIGHT

Read this on Saturday night just before bed.

Tomorrow is Easter Sunday – the day when Jesus' followers discovered he was not dead, but had risen! But before they knew that, his followers were quiet and sad. Tomorrow morning, everyone has to get up, gather in silence, decorate the table, remove religious items from storage and uncover larger religious items, get dressed, and eat breakfast. You can only talk once you've found a flower growing somewhere. We remember that just like the seeds that grow when planted, Jesus did not stay in the grave – he is risen!

EASTER MORNING: A SILENT ACTIVITY

ACTIVITY DIRECTIONS:

1. Take out the bin/container of items you put away on Maundy Thursday and place the items where you would like them in your home. If you covered any larger items up on Maundy Thursday you may remove the cloths.
2. Decorate your table with fancy plates, napkins, silverware, silk flowers, candles, or anything that can make it feel fancy.
3. Get dressed in fancy clothes or your silliest clothes—just make sure you get dressed up.
4. Prepare breakfast, or order breakfast.
5. Serve breakfast and eat in silence.
6. After breakfast go outside if you are able and find a new flower growing. If you can't make it outside find a gardening show on tv, watch a video on a computer or phone that shows a spring flower growing, or look in a magazine and find out if you see one in there.
7. Once you've found a growing flower you may talk.
8. If you have Easter baskets to find look for them now.
9. Think about or discuss where you see God right now.

HYMN: JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN TODAY

Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia! our triumphant holy day, Alleluia! who did once upon the cross, Alleluia! suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia! unto Christ, our heav'nly king, Alleluia! who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia! sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

But the pains which he endured, Alleluia! our salvation have procured; Alleluia! now above the sky he's king, Alleluia! where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia! praise eternal as his love; Alleluia! praise him, all you heav'nly host, Alleluia! Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

Text: Latin carol, 14th cent., sts. 1-3; tr. J Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708, alt.; Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, st. 4. Hymn is in the Public Domain.

ACTS 10:34-43

Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

PSALM 118:1-2, 14-24

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever! Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever." The LORD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the LORD does valiantly; the right hand of the LORD is exalted; the right hand of the LORD does valiantly." I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the LORD. The LORD has punished me severely, but he did not give me over to death. Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD. This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it. I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

COLOSSIANS 3:1-4

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to Saint John in the 20th chapter.

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

HYMN: CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY; ALLELUIA!

Christ the Lord is ris'n today; Alleluia! Christians, hasten on your way; Alleluia! offer praise with love replete, Alleluia! at the paschal victim's feet. Alleluia!

For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Alleluia! sinless in the sinners' stead. Alleluia! Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Alleluia! now he lives, no more to die. Alleluia!

Christ, the victim undefiled, Alleluia! God and sinners reconciled, Alleluia! when contending death and life, Alleluia! met in strange and awesome strife. Alleluia!

Christians, on this holy day, Alleluia! all your grateful homage pay; Alleluia! Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Alleluia! now he lives, no more to die. Alleluia!

Text: John Fawcett, 1740-1817, alt. Hymn is in the Public Domain.

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

HYMN: THINE IS THE GLORY

Thine is the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son; endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won! Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away, kept the folded grave clothes where thy body lay. Thine is the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son; endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won!

Lo, Jesus meets thee, risen from the tomb! Lovingly he greets thee, scatters fear and gloom; let his church with gladness hymns of triumph sing, for the Lord now liveth; death hast lost its sting! Thine is the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son; endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won!

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life; life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than conqu'rors, though my deathless love; bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above. Thine is the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son; endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won!

Text: Edmond Budry, 1854-1932; tr. R. Birch Hoyle, 1875-1939. Hymn is in the Public Domain.

SHOUT OUT LOUD

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!