



*Easter Sampler*

***Teach Us to Pray***

**Scripture-Centered Family Worship through the Year**

**Lora A. Copley and Elizabeth Vander Haagen**



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**Easter**

## Easter - Introduction

Put up the balloons and streamers! Pull out the trumpets and tambourines!  
Resurrection Sunday marks the best day of the church year!

The good news of this celebration is not packed into one day. It takes a full fifty days to really celebrate the wonder of the resurrection. Not only that, but every Sunday in the church year continues the celebration of Jesus' resurrection from the dead.

In the season of Easter, we praise God for Jesus' victory over sin and death. Jesus' victory is our victory too; we are washed clean and made alive in Christ! We see that we have new life today and we don't have to be afraid of death tomorrow. Our resurrection means that we will have new resurrected bodies and, even better, we will be with Jesus.

Baptism has a special connection to Easter: The Bible tells us that baptism unites us with Christ in his dying and resurrection and is a symbol of the new life we have in Jesus. In baptism, God reminds us that just as water washes away dirt, so too Jesus' death washes away all our sin and makes us clean.

Besides Easter Sunday, there are two other great feast days in this season of Eastertide, called Ascension and Pentecost. Forty days after Easter, Ascension marks the day that Jesus ascended to heaven, taking the throne there, where he prays for us and rules over all things. Fifty days after Easter, we remember the day that God sent the Holy Spirit to the disciples and to all of us so that we can know God, be more like Christ, and spread this good news.

**Preparing:** Our preparing action for Eastertide is to pour water from a pitcher into a bowl and to dip our hands in it to remember or look forward to our baptism—our dying and rising with Christ.

**Materials:** pitcher of water, large bowl, towel

**Other Activities:** Here are other ideas to make your Eastertide family worship meaningful:

- Fill your worship space with balloons on the night before Easter Sunday.
- On Easter morning, before the kids wake up, light dozens and dozens of candles. Play celebrative Easter music. Even the youngest child will know that something very special is happening. The challenge: Make Easter Sunday the best day of the year for your family—better than Christmas!
- Make a sunrise family breakfast and worship service together.
- Make an Easter chain, counting down the days from Easter to Ascension to Pentecost.
- Between Ascension and Pentecost, have special prayer times focusing on the Holy Spirit and revival in the church. (There are a number of free online prayer guides for these ten days that are geared to kids.)
- Take an Ascension Day hike up a hill and wonder together about what it means that a member of the human race is sitting on the heavenly throne praying for us.
- As part of your Pentecost worship, sing songs in other languages and tell each other what gifts you think the Holy Spirit may have given the different members of your family.

**Song Ideas:** In each day's reading you will find a song (find the music in the appendix). Here are other songs to make your Easter worship meaningful:

- "Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks"
- "Because He Lives"
- "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High"
- "Our God Reigns"
- "This is the Day"

## Easter · Day 1 · Resurrection Sunday



### Preparing

Pour water from a pitcher into a bowl and then dip your hands into the water to remember or look forward to your baptism—your dying and rising with Christ.



### Inviting

Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**



### Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



### Singing

Oh, how good is Christ the Lord! On the cross he died for me.  
He has pardoned all my sin. Glory be to Jesus. Glory be to Jesus!  
Glory be to Jesus! In three days he rose again. Glory be to Jesus! (p. 830)



### Bible Reading: Psalm 118:15–16; Matthew 28:1–9

Shouts of joy ring out in the tents of godly people.

They praise him for his help in battle.

They shout, "The LORD's powerful right hand has done mighty things!

The LORD's powerful right hand has won the battle!

The LORD's powerful right hand has done mighty things!"

---

The Sabbath day was now over. It was dawn on the first day of the week. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

There was a powerful earthquake. An angel of the Lord came down from heaven. The angel went to the tomb. He rolled back the stone and sat on it. His body



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shone like lightning. His clothes were as white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

The angel said to the women, "Don't be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here! He has risen, just as he said he would! Come and see the place where he was lying. Go quickly! Tell his disciples, 'He has risen from the dead. He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

So the women hurried away from the tomb. They were afraid, but they were filled with joy. They ran to tell the disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings!" he said. They came to him, took hold of his feet and worshiped him.

## Dwelling

I wonder what it was like for the women to hear, "Jesus is not here. He has risen!"? I wonder how it felt for Jesus to meet the women and say, "Greetings!"



## Praying

We praise you, Lord Jesus! You have risen, just as you said you would. You defeated the powers of sin and death. You are the mighty victor, and we are full of joy! Alleluia! Alleluia!



*Close your prayer time by saying the Lord's Prayer together.*

## Blessing

Thanks be to God! **He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

(1 Corinthians 15:57)



## Easter · Day 2 · Monday



### Preparing

Pour water from a pitcher into a bowl and then dip your hands into the water to remember or look forward to your baptism—your dying and rising with Christ.



### Inviting

Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**



### Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



### Singing

Oh, how good is Christ the Lord! On the cross he died for me.  
He has pardoned all my sin. Glory be to Jesus. Glory be to Jesus!  
Glory be to Jesus! In three days he rose again. Glory be to Jesus! (p. 830)



### Bible Reading: Psalm 118:22–24; Luke 24:3–11

The stone the builders didn't accept  
has become the most important stone of all.  
The LORD has done it.  
It is wonderful in our eyes.  
The LORD has done it on this day.  
Let us be joyful today and be glad.

---

When [the women] entered the tomb, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. They were wondering about this. Suddenly two men in clothes as bright as lightning stood beside them. The women were terrified. They bowed down with their faces to the ground. Then the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? Jesus is not here! He has risen! Remember how he told

you he would rise. He said, 'He must be nailed to a cross. On the third day he will rise from the dead.'" Then the women remembered Jesus' words.

They came back from the tomb. They told all these things to the 11 apostles and to all the others. Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them were the ones who told the apostles. But the apostles did not believe the women. Their words didn't make any sense to them.

## Dwelling

I wonder how the angels felt giving the women this message? I wonder how the women felt giving the same message to the apostles? I wonder why the apostles didn't believe the women?



## Praying

- praise God for always keeping promises
- offer thanks for the ways God has kept promises to you



Risen Jesus, the good news of your coming back to life again seems too wonderful to be true. Help us believe it and, like the women, tell others the good news about you. Amen.

## Blessing

Thanks be to God! **He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

(1 Corinthians 15:57)



## Easter · Day 3 · Tuesday



### Preparing

Pour water from a pitcher into a bowl and then dip your hands into the water to remember or look forward to your baptism—your dying and rising with Christ.



### Inviting

Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**



### Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



### Singing

Oh, how good is Christ the Lord! On the cross he died for me.  
He has pardoned all my sin. Glory be to Jesus. Glory be to Jesus!  
Glory be to Jesus! In three days he rose again. Glory be to Jesus! (p. 830)



### Bible Reading: Song of Songs 2:11–12; John 20:11–12, 14, 16–18

“Look! The winter is past.

The rains are over and gone.

Flowers are appearing on the earth.

The season for singing has come.”

But Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she cried, she bent over to look into the tomb. She saw two angels dressed in white. They were seated where Jesus’ body had been. One of them was where Jesus’ head had been laid. The other sat where his feet had been placed.

Then she turned around and saw Jesus standing there. But she didn’t realize that it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him. Then she cried out in the Aramaic language, "*Rabboni!*"  
Rabboni means Teacher.

Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me. I have not yet ascended to the Father. Instead, go to those who believe in me. Tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news. She said, "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

## Dwelling

I wonder why Mary didn't realize at first that it was Jesus? I wonder why hearing her own name made Mary realize it was Jesus?



## Praying

- for angels
- for plants and animals in the neighborhood



Risen Jesus, you knew that Mary was sad and crying, and you know when we are sad and crying too. Thank you for being near to Mary and near to us. Thank you for being bigger and stronger than all the things which make us sad. Amen.

## Blessing

Thanks be to God! **He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

(1 Corinthians 15:57)



## Easter · Day 4 · Wednesday



### Preparing

Pour water from a pitcher into a bowl and then dip your hands into the water to remember or look forward to your baptism—your dying and rising with Christ.



### Inviting

Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**



### Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



### Singing

Oh, how good is Christ the Lord! On the cross he died for me.  
He has pardoned all my sin. Glory be to Jesus. Glory be to Jesus!  
Glory be to Jesus! In three days he rose again. Glory be to Jesus! (p. 830)



### Bible Reading: Song of Songs 6:10; Luke 24:13–21

Who is this that appears like the dawn,  
fair as the moon, bright as the sun,  
majestic as the stars in procession?

That same day two of Jesus' followers were going to a village called Emmaus. It was about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked about those things, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them. But God kept them from recognizing him.

Jesus asked them, "What are you talking about as you walk along?"

They stood still, and their faces were sad. One of them was named Cleopas. He said to Jesus, "Are you the only person visiting Jerusalem who doesn't know? Don't you know about the things that have happened there in the last few days?"

"What things?" Jesus asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet. He was powerful in what he said and did in the sight of God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed Jesus over to be sentenced to death. They nailed him to a cross. But we had hoped that he was the one who was going to set Israel free."

## Dwelling

I wonder why God kept the followers from recognizing it was Jesus? I wonder what Jesus was feeling when walking with these disciples?



## Praying

- for travelers or people vacationing
- for time to play with family



Risen Jesus, thank you for all of the hidden ways you are at work in our lives. Thank you for walking with us, even when we can't see you or recognize you. Thank you for being interested in what we have to say. And most of all, thank you that those who hope in you will never be disappointed. (Isaiah 49:23) Amen.

## Blessing

Thanks be to God! **He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

(1 Corinthians 15:57)



## Easter - Day 5 - Thursday



### Preparing

Pour water from a pitcher into a bowl and then dip your hands into the water to remember or look forward to your baptism—your dying and rising with Christ.



### Inviting

Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**



### Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



### Singing

Oh, how good is Christ the Lord! On the cross he died for me.  
He has pardoned all my sin. Glory be to Jesus. Glory be to Jesus!  
Glory be to Jesus! In three days he rose again. Glory be to Jesus! (p. 830)



### Bible Reading: Psalm 118:27; Luke 24:22–29

The LORD is God.

He has been good to us.

Take branches in your hands. Join in the march on the day of the feast.

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“Some of our women amazed us too. Early this morning they went to the tomb. But they didn’t find his body. So they came and told us what they had seen. They saw angels, who said Jesus was alive. Then some of our friends went to the tomb. They saw it was empty, just as the women had said. They didn’t see Jesus’ body there.”

Jesus said to them, “How foolish you are! How long it takes you to believe all that the prophets said! Didn’t the Messiah have to suffer these things and then



receive his glory?" Jesus explained to them what was said about himself in all the Scriptures. He began with Moses and all the Prophets.

They approached the village where they were going. Jesus kept walking as if he were going farther. But they tried hard to keep him from leaving. They said, "Stay with us. It is nearly evening. The day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

## Dwelling

I wonder what the disciples thought as Jesus explained the Scriptures to them? I wonder what it is like to walk with Jesus?



## Praying

- for migrant workers and those who provide for them
- for people who go to sleep afraid



Risen Jesus, thank you for teaching and reminding your disciples what Scripture says about you. You are the main point of the whole story of Scripture. Thank you for the Holy Spirit, who helps us understand your Word. And thank you for staying with us and never leaving us alone. Amen.

## Blessing

Thanks be to God! **He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

(1 Corinthians 15:57)



## Easter - Day 6 - Friday



### Preparing

Pour water from a pitcher into a bowl and then dip your hands into the water to remember or look forward to your baptism—your dying and rising with Christ.



### Inviting

Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**



### Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



### Singing

Oh, how good is Christ the Lord! On the cross he died for me.  
He has pardoned all my sin. Glory be to Jesus. Glory be to Jesus!  
Glory be to Jesus! In three days he rose again. Glory be to Jesus! (p. 830)



### Bible Reading: Isaiah 30:20; Luke 24:30–35

He will be your Teacher. He won't hide himself anymore. You will see him with your own eyes.

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[Jesus] joined them at the table. Then he took bread and gave thanks. He broke it and began to give it to them. Their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. But then he disappeared from their sight. They said to each other, "He explained to us what the Scriptures meant. Weren't we excited as he talked with us on the road?"

They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the 11 disciples and those with them. They were all gathered together. They were saying, "It's true! The Lord has risen! He has appeared to Simon!" Then the two of them told

what had happened to them on the way. They told how they had recognized Jesus when he broke the bread.

## Dwelling

I wonder what it was about the breaking of bread that helped the disciples recognize Jesus? I wonder why they were so excited when Jesus talked to them on the road?



## Praying

- for a stronger sense of God's presence with us
- for new ways to thank God



Risen Jesus, you gave us ordinary things like bread to remind us of your love. Open our eyes, like you opened the eyes of the disciples, so we can see you at the table. Open our hearts to catch you in words we hear today. Open our mouths to tell our friends, "It's true! The Lord has risen!" Amen.

## Blessing

Thanks be to God! **He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

(1 Corinthians 15:57)



## Easter · Day 7 · Saturday



### Preparing

Pour water from a pitcher into a bowl and then dip your hands into the water to remember or look forward to your baptism—your dying and rising with Christ.



### Inviting

Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**



### Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



### Singing

Oh, how good is Christ the Lord! On the cross he died for me.  
He has pardoned all my sin. Glory be to Jesus. Glory be to Jesus!  
Glory be to Jesus! In three days he rose again. Glory be to Jesus! (p. 830)



### Bible Reading: Philemon 3; John 20:19–23

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.

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On the evening of that first day of the week, the disciples were together. They had locked the doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Jesus came in and stood among them. He said, “May peace be with you!” Then he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were very happy when they saw the Lord.

Again Jesus said, “May peace be with you! The Father has sent me. So now I am sending you.” He then breathed on them. He said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven.”

## Dwelling

I wonder how Jesus got through those locked doors? I wonder why Jesus showed his wounded hands and sides?



## Praying

- for people preparing to be baptized or preparing to profess their faith
- for people and businesses in our church neighborhood



Risen Jesus, you came and spoke peace to the disciples when they were afraid. And you speak peace to us too. Help us to listen. Thank you for breathing the Holy Spirit on us so we can forgive and love like you. Amen.

## Blessing

Thanks be to God! **He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

(1 Corinthians 15:57)



## Easter - Day 8 - Second Sunday



### Preparing

Pour water from a pitcher into a bowl and then dip your hands into the water to remember or look forward to your baptism—your dying and rising with Christ.



### Inviting

Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**



### Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



### Singing

Oh, how good is Christ the Lord! On the cross he died for me.  
He has pardoned all my sin. Glory be to Jesus. Glory be to Jesus!  
Glory be to Jesus! In three days he rose again. Glory be to Jesus! (p. 830)



### Bible Reading: Psalm 103:1–4, 21–22

I will praise the LORD.

Deep down inside me, I will praise him.

I will praise him, because his name is holy.

I will praise the LORD.

I won't forget anything he does for me.

He forgives all my sins.

He heals all my sicknesses.

He saves my life from going down into the grave.

His faithful and tender love makes me feel like a king.

Praise the LORD, all you angels in heaven.

Praise him, all you who serve him and do what he wants.

Let everything the LORD has made praise him  
everywhere in his kingdom.

I will praise the LORD.

## Dwelling

As you listen to the reading, what feelings are in your heart? Is there anything you would like to tell God?



## Praying

Look at all you've done for us, Lord! How can we even begin to thank you? From the highest angels right down to the deepest parts of our hearts, we want to praise you. Yes, we will praise you. Because you deserve it!



*Close your prayer time by saying the Lord's Prayer together.*

## Blessing

Thanks be to God! **He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

(1 Corinthians 15:57)



## Easter - Day 9 - Monday



### Preparing

Pour water from a pitcher into a bowl and then dip your hands into the water to remember or look forward to your baptism—your dying and rising with Christ.



### Inviting

Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**



### Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



### Singing

Oh, how good is Christ the Lord! On the cross he died for me.  
He has pardoned all my sin. Glory be to Jesus. Glory be to Jesus!  
Glory be to Jesus! In three days he rose again. Glory be to Jesus! (p. 830)



### Bible Reading: John 20:24–29

Thomas was one of the 12 disciples. He was also called Didymus. He was not with the other disciples when Jesus came. So they told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he said to them, “First I must see the nail marks in his hands. I must put my finger where the nails were. I must put my hand into his side. Only then will I believe.”

A week later, Jesus’ disciples were in the house again. Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus came in and stood among them. He said, “May peace be with you!” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here.



See my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen me but still have believed.”

## Dwelling

I wonder how Thomas felt when Jesus stood in front of him? I wonder how Jesus felt when he saw Thomas?



## Praying

- praise God for the gift we receive through Jesus' scars
- offer thanks to God for coming to us even with our doubts and fears



Wow, Lord Jesus! How amazing that Thomas could touch you! How amazing that you kept your scars—proof of your death, proof of your victory, and proof of your unstoppable love—for Thomas, and for us too. We join Thomas in praising you as our Lord and our God. Amen.

## Blessing

Thanks be to God! **He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

(1 Corinthians 15:57)



## Easter · Day 10 · Tuesday



### Preparing

Pour water from a pitcher into a bowl and then dip your hands into the water to remember or look forward to your baptism—your dying and rising with Christ.



### Inviting

Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**



### Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



### Singing

Oh, how good is Christ the Lord! On the cross he died for me.  
He has pardoned all my sin. Glory be to Jesus. Glory be to Jesus!  
Glory be to Jesus! In three days he rose again. Glory be to Jesus! (p. 830)



### Bible Reading: Isaiah 49:13–16

Shout for joy, you heavens!

Be glad, you earth!

Burst into song, you mountains!

The LORD will comfort his people.

He will show his tender love to those who are suffering.

But the city of Zion said, “The LORD has deserted me.

The Lord has forgotten me.”

The LORD answers, “Can a mother forget the baby  
who is nursing at her breast?

Can she stop having tender love  
for the child who was born to her?  
She might forget her child.  
But I will not forget you.  
I have written your name on the palms of my hands.

### Dwelling

Is there a picture that comes to mind from what you heard? What might it show us about God?



### Praying

- for astronauts and the exploration of space
- for those who bring food to people—growers, grocers, and governments



Tender God, it's almost impossible for a nursing mom to forget her baby. Yet how much more impossible it is that you could ever forget us, Lord. We are engraved into the palms of your hands! Your wounds remind us of your unstoppable love. Nobody loves like you, O God. Amen.

### Blessing

Thanks be to God! **He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

(1 Corinthians 15:57)



## Easter · Day 11 · Wednesday



### Preparing

Pour water from a pitcher into a bowl and then dip your hands into the water to remember or look forward to your baptism—your dying and rising with Christ.



### Inviting

Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**



### Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



### Singing

Oh, how good is Christ the Lord! On the cross he died for me.  
He has pardoned all my sin. Glory be to Jesus. Glory be to Jesus!  
Glory be to Jesus! In three days he rose again. Glory be to Jesus! (p. 830)



### Bible Reading: Luke 24:36–43

The disciples were still talking about this when Jesus himself suddenly stood among them. He said, “May you have peace!”

They were surprised and terrified. They thought they were seeing a ghost. Jesus said to them, “Why are you troubled? Why do you have doubts in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It’s really me! Touch me and see. A ghost does not have a body or bones. But you can see that I do.”

After he said that, he showed them his hands and feet. But they still did not believe it. They were amazed and filled with joy. So Jesus asked them, “Do you have anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of cooked fish. He took it and ate it in front of them.

### Dwelling

I wonder what the disciples were talking about when Jesus came? I wonder how Jesus felt when he came to be with the disciples?



### Praying

- for people with all kinds of abilities and disabilities, joys, and struggles
- for people who don't have a mom or dad in their lives



Jesus, when doubts fog our minds, may we hold on to your scars and look forward to the meal we'll enjoy with you someday. Thank you for being a God with scars. Thank you for being a God who loves a good meal. You are the best. Amen.

### Blessing

Thanks be to God! **He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

(1 Corinthians 15:57)



## Easter · Day 12 · Thursday



### Preparing

Pour water from a pitcher into a bowl and then dip your hands into the water to remember or look forward to your baptism—your dying and rising with Christ.



### Inviting

Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**



### Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



### Singing

Oh, how good is Christ the Lord! On the cross he died for me.  
He has pardoned all my sin. Glory be to Jesus. Glory be to Jesus!  
Glory be to Jesus! In three days he rose again. Glory be to Jesus! (p. 830)



### Bible Reading: John 21:3–4, 6–12

“I’m going out to fish,” Simon Peter told [the disciples]. They said, “We’ll go with you.” So they went out and got into the boat. That night they didn’t catch anything.

Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore. But the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.

He said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat. There you will find some fish.” When they did, they could not pull the net into the boat. There were too many fish in it.

Then the disciple Jesus loved said to Simon Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Peter heard that, he put his coat on. He had taken it off earlier. Then he jumped into the water. The other disciples followed in the boat. They were towing the net full of fish. The shore was only about 100 yards away. When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals. There were fish on it. There was also some bread.

Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat. He dragged the net to shore. It was full of large fish. There were 153 of them. But even with that many fish the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast."

## Dwelling

I wonder why the disciples didn't recognize Jesus at first? I wonder what it would be like to have breakfast with Jesus?



## Praying

- for people who work in factories and people who own factories
- for the countries of Asia



Sometimes we meet you at such regular places, Lord—like over breakfast, or while we're busy at work. Thank you that you don't show up only at church or on mountaintops. May we "spy with our little eyes" all the places you show up today. Amen.

## Blessing

Thanks be to God! **He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

(1 Corinthians 15:57)



## Easter · Day 13 · Friday



### Preparing

Pour water from a pitcher into a bowl and then dip your hands into the water to remember or look forward to your baptism—your dying and rising with Christ.



### Inviting

Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**



### Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



### Singing

Oh, how good is Christ the Lord! On the cross he died for me.  
He has pardoned all my sin. Glory be to Jesus. Glory be to Jesus!  
Glory be to Jesus! In three days he rose again. Glory be to Jesus! (p. 830)



### Bible Reading: John 21:13–17

Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them. He did the same thing with the fish. This was the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

When Jesus and the disciples had finished eating, Jesus spoke to Simon Peter. He asked, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these others do?”

“Yes, Lord,” he answered. “You know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”

Again Jesus asked, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?”



He answered, "Yes, Lord. You know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."

Jesus spoke to him a third time. He asked, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?"

Peter felt bad because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He answered, "Lord, you know all things. You know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."

## Dwelling

I wonder why Jesus asked Peter three times if Peter loved him? I wonder what it means to feed Jesus' sheep?



## Praying

- for courage to tell others about Jesus
- for courage to do what God asks us to do



Lord Jesus, when Peter turned his back on you, he realized he was not as strong as he thought he was. Neither are we. Thank you that your love is stronger than all. You are the one we truly love. Help us feed your sheep. Amen.

## Blessing

Thanks be to God! **He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

(1 Corinthians 15:57)



## Easter · Day 14 · Saturday



### Preparing

Pour water from a pitcher into a bowl and then dip your hands into the water to remember or look forward to your baptism—your dying and rising with Christ.



### Inviting

Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**



### Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



### Singing

Oh, how good is Christ the Lord! On the cross he died for me.

He has pardoned all my sin. Glory be to Jesus. Glory be to Jesus!

Glory be to Jesus! In three days he rose again. Glory be to Jesus! (p. 830)



### Bible Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1–8

Brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the good news I preached to you.

You received it and have put your faith in it. Because you believed the good news, you are saved. But you must hold firmly to the message I preached to you.

If you don't, you have believed it for nothing.

What I received I passed on to you. And it is the most important of all. Here is what it is. Christ died for our sins, just as Scripture said he would. He was buried. He was raised from the dead on the third day, just as Scripture said he would be. He appeared to Peter. Then he appeared to the 12 apostles. After that, he appeared to more than 500 brothers and sisters at the same time. Most of them are still living. But some have died. He appeared to James. Then he appeared to all the apostles. Last of all, he also appeared to me.

## Dwelling

Is there a word or phrase that stays in your mind? Slowly repeat it. . . . What might Jesus be saying to you?



## Praying

- for anyone who helps the church “behind the scenes”
- for churches in Australia and the Pacific Islands, and especially for people who are persecuted for believing in Jesus



God, thank you that we don't believe in make-believe stories. Thank you for all those real people who saw you with their own two eyes. Thank you that they wrote it down because they were changed and knew everything else had changed. And now we're changed too because of you, risen Savior. Amen.

## Blessing

Thanks be to God! **He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

(1 Corinthians 15:57)



## Easter · Day 15 · Third Sunday



### Preparing

Pour water from a pitcher into a bowl and then dip your hands into the water to remember or look forward to your baptism—your dying and rising with Christ.



### Inviting

Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**



### Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



### Singing

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Christ the Lord is risen indeed. (p. 832)



### Bible Reading: Psalm 80:3, 7, 17–19

God, make us new again.

May you be pleased with us.

Then we will be saved.

God who rules over all, make us new again.

May you be pleased with us.

Then we will be saved.

May you honor the people at your right hand.

May you honor the nation you have raised up for yourself.

Then we won't turn away from you.

Give us new life. We will worship you.

LORD God who rules over all, make us new again.

May you be pleased with us.

Then we will be saved.

## Dwelling

Is there a picture that comes to mind from what we have heard? What might it show us about God?



## Praying

God who smiles, thank you for honoring the Son of Man, Jesus Christ. Thank you that because Jesus sits at your right hand, and because we are in Jesus, brand-new life is not just a future thing. We can be made new right now.



*Close your prayer time by saying the Lord's Prayer together.*

## Blessing

Thanks be to God! **He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

(1 Corinthians 15:57)



## Easter · Day 16 · Monday



### Preparing

Pour water from a pitcher into a bowl and then dip your hands into the water to remember or look forward to your baptism—your dying and rising with Christ.



### Inviting

Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**



### Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



### Singing

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Christ the Lord is risen indeed. (p. 832)



### Bible Reading: Acts 10:39–43

[Then Peter said,] “We are witnesses of everything [Jesus] did in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by nailing him to a cross. But on the third day God raised him from the dead. God allowed Jesus to be seen. But he wasn’t seen by all the people. He was seen only by us. We are witnesses whom God had already chosen. We ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people. He told us to tell people that he is the one appointed by God to judge the living and the dead. All the prophets tell about him. They say that all who believe in him have their sins forgiven through his name.”



### Dwelling

I wonder why Jesus wasn’t seen by everyone when he rose from the dead? I wonder how we are witnesses too?

## Praying

- praise God for being our guide
- offer thanks for the ways you've seen God's leading in your life



Lord Jesus, the apostles tell about you. The prophets tell about you. The Spirit tells about you. They all say if we're stuck in our sins, you alone can pull us out, wash us clean, and give us a new heart. Thank you for doing this, Jesus, through your cross and resurrection. Amen.

## Blessing

Thanks be to God! **He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

(1 Corinthians 15:57)



## Easter · Day 17 · Tuesday



### Preparing

Pour water from a pitcher into a bowl and then dip your hands into the water to remember or look forward to your baptism—your dying and rising with Christ.



### Inviting

Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**



### Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



### Singing

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Christ the Lord is risen indeed. (p. 832)



### Bible Reading: Romans 6:3–5, 8–10, 13

All of us were baptized into Christ Jesus. Don't you know that we were baptized into his death? By being baptized, we were buried with Christ into his death. Christ has been raised from the dead by the Father's glory. And like Christ we also can live a new life.

By being baptized, we have been joined with him in a death like his. So we will certainly also be joined with him in a resurrection like his.

We died with Christ. So we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ was raised from the dead and will never die again. Death doesn't control him anymore. When he died, he died once and for all time. He did this to break the power of sin. Now that he lives, he lives in the power of God.



Don't give any part of yourself to serve sin. Don't let any part of yourself be used to do evil. Instead, give yourselves to God. You have been brought from death to life. So give every part of yourself to God to do what is right.

### Dwelling

I wonder if you have seen a baptism? I wonder what about a baptism makes us think of Jesus' death and resurrection?



### Praying

- for endangered plants and animals
- for new ways to care for the earth



Lord Jesus, in baptism you join us to yourself. We are also joined to you in your death and resurrection. This is bigger than our minds can grasp. But wherever you are, Lord Jesus, that's where we want to be. We give ourselves to you! Amen.

### Blessing

Thanks be to God! **He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

(1 Corinthians 15:57)



## Easter · Day 18 · Wednesday



### Preparing

Pour water from a pitcher into a bowl and then dip your hands into the water to remember or look forward to your baptism—your dying and rising with Christ.



### Inviting

Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**



### Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



### Singing

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Christ the Lord is risen indeed. (p. 832)



### Bible Reading: Titus 3:4–7

But the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared. He saved us. It wasn't because of the good things we had done. It was because of his mercy. He saved us by washing away our sins. We were born again. The Holy Spirit gave us new life. God poured out the Spirit on us freely. That's because of what Jesus Christ our Savior has done. His grace made us right with God. So now we have received the hope of eternal life as God's children.



### Dwelling

I wonder what God's love and kindness look like? I wonder what new life looks like?

## Praying

- for people who are left out and lonely
- for teachers, principals, and others who work at our school



Thank you, kind God, for pouring out your Spirit and washing away our sins.  
Thank you that your good work does not depend on our good work. Thank you  
for making us clean deep down into our hearts. In Jesus' name, amen.

## Blessing

Thanks be to God! **He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

(1 Corinthians 15:57)



## Easter · Day 19 · Thursday



### Preparing

Pour water from a pitcher into a bowl and then dip your hands into the water to remember or look forward to your baptism—your dying and rising with Christ.



### Inviting

Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**



### Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



### Singing

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Christ the Lord is risen indeed. (p. 832)



### Bible Reading: 2 John 2–4; 3 John 3–4

I [John] love you because of the truth that is alive in us. This truth will be with us forever.

God the Father and Jesus Christ his Son will give you grace, mercy and peace. These blessings will be with us because we love the truth.

It has given me great joy to find some of your children living by the truth. That's just what the Father commanded us to do.

Some believers came to me and told me that you are faithful to the truth. They told me that you continue to live by it. This news gave me great joy. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are living by the truth.

## Dwelling

Is there a word or phrase from the reading that stays in your mind? Slowly repeat it. . . . What might Jesus be speaking to you?



## Praying

- for enemies and peacemakers
- for the countries of the Middle East



God, thank you that truth is not some cold thing found in a book. You, Jesus, are truth, and amazingly you are alive in us! May we learn and live each day from you. Amen.

## Blessing

Thanks be to God! **He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

(1 Corinthians 15:57)



## Easter - Day 20 - Friday



### Preparing

Pour water from a pitcher into a bowl and then dip your hands into the water to remember or look forward to your baptism—your dying and rising with Christ.



### Inviting

Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**



### Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



### Singing

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Christ the Lord is risen indeed. (p. 832)



### Bible Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:15–18

Christ died for everyone. He died so that those who live should not live for themselves anymore. They should live for Christ. He died for them and was raised again.

So from now on we don't look at anyone the way the world does. At one time we looked at Christ in that way. But we don't anymore. When anyone lives in Christ, the new creation has come. The old is gone! The new is here! All this is from God. He brought us back to himself through Christ's death on the cross. And he has given us the task of bringing others back to himself through Christ.



### Dwelling

Is God telling us to do something? Is God promising to do something?

## Praying

- for confidence that God always knows what is best for us
- for actions that show our love for God



God, we used to see everyone by what they could do for us. We lived for ourselves. But you've made us new. You've given us new eyes. We don't live for ourselves anymore. We live for you! Thank you that your death and resurrection make us new. Amen.

## Blessing

Thanks be to God! **He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

(1 Corinthians 15:57)



## Easter · Day 21 · Saturday



### Preparing

Pour water from a pitcher into a bowl and then dip your hands into the water to remember or look forward to your baptism—your dying and rising with Christ.



### Inviting

Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**



### Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



### Singing

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Christ the Lord is risen indeed. (p. 832)



### Bible Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:7–10

Treasure is kept in clay jars. In the same way, we have the treasure of the good news in these earthly bodies of ours. That shows that the mighty power of the good news comes from God. It doesn't come from us. We are pushed hard from all sides. But we are not beaten down. We are bewildered. But that doesn't make us lose hope. Others make us suffer. But God does not desert us. We are knocked down. But we are not knocked out. We always carry around the death of Jesus in our bodies. In that way, the life of Jesus can be shown in our bodies.



### Dwelling

What pictures come to mind as you listen to these verses? What might the Spirit be showing us?



## Praying

- for Sunday school teachers and people who help grow us into disciples
- for people who have been hurt by the church



Lord, thank you for the resurrection treasure kept in our clay jars. You are the treasure. Bad news can't squash the good news of you. No matter how hard things get, we won't lose hope! Show your life in our bodies, Lord. Amen.

## Blessing

Thanks be to God! **He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

(1 Corinthians 15:57)



## Easter · Day 22 · Fourth Sunday



### Preparing

Pour water from a pitcher into a bowl and then dip your hands into the water to remember or look forward to your baptism—your dying and rising with Christ.



### Inviting

Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**



### Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



### Singing

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Christ the Lord is risen indeed. (p. 832)



### Bible Reading: Song of Songs 8:6–7

“Hold me close to your heart where your royal seal is worn.

Keep me as close to yourself as the bracelet on your arm.

My love for you is so strong it won’t let you go.

Love is as powerful as death.

Love’s jealousy is as strong as the grave.

Love is like a blazing fire.

Love burns like a mighty flame.

No amount of water can put it out.

Rivers can’t sweep it away.

Suppose someone offers

all their wealth to buy love.

That won’t even come close to being enough.”

## Dwelling

Is there a picture that comes to mind from what we have heard? What might it show us about love?



## Praying

God, you are Love itself. Your love doesn't let us go, even when we die. Your grip is too strong. Help us to see that no one can buy or earn your love—the price is way too high. We can only open our hands to accept your powerful love through Jesus.



*Close your prayer time by saying the Lord's Prayer together.*

## Blessing

Thanks be to God! **He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

(1 Corinthians 15:57)



## Easter - Day 23 - Monday



### Preparing

Pour water from a pitcher into a bowl and then dip your hands into the water to remember or look forward to your baptism—your dying and rising with Christ.



### Inviting

Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**



### Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



### Singing

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Christ the Lord is risen indeed. (p. 832)



### Bible Reading: John 11:5–6, 20–27

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So after he heard Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was for two more days.

When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him. But Mary stayed at home.

“Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “I wish you had been here! Then my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you anything you ask for.”

Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

Martha answered, “I know he will rise again. This will happen when people are raised from the dead on the last day.”

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even if they die. And whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

"Yes, Lord," she replied. "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God. I believe that you are the one who is supposed to come into the world."

## Dwelling

I wonder why Jesus waited to see Lazarus instead of going right away when he heard Lazarus was sick? I wonder why Mary stayed home when she heard Jesus had come?



## Praying

- praise God for comforting us as a mother comforts her child (Isaiah 66:13)
- offer thanks for the ways you've felt God's comfort lately



Dear Jesus, we're like Martha. We get confused when you seem to do nothing while a person we love is hurting. But you asked Martha to trust you. You know what you are doing. Help us to trust that you are bringing something new to sad hearts. You loved Martha. Help us trust that you love us too. Amen.

## Blessing

Thanks be to God! **He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

(1 Corinthians 15:57)



## Easter - Day 24 - Tuesday



### Preparing

Pour water from a pitcher into a bowl and then dip your hands into the water to remember or look forward to your baptism—your dying and rising with Christ.



### Inviting

Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**



### Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



### Singing

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Christ the Lord is risen indeed. (p. 832)



### Bible Reading: Isaiah 25:7–8; 26:19

On that mountain the LORD will destroy  
     the veil of sadness that covers all the nations.  
 He will destroy the gloom that is spread over everyone.  
     He will swallow up death forever.  
 The LORD and King will wipe away the tears  
     from everyone's face.  
 He will remove the shame of his people  
     from the whole earth.  
 The LORD has spoken.

LORD, your people who have died will live again.  
     Their bodies will rise from the dead.

Let those who lie in the grave  
wake up and shout for joy.  
You give life, LORD, like the dew of the morning.  
So the earth will give up its dead people.

## Dwelling

What feelings are in your heart as you listen to these words? Is there anything you would like to talk with God about?



## Praying

- for people and creation hurt by wildfires, earthquakes, or drought
- for a desire to live simply and contentedly



God who swallows up death, thank you! Thank you that in the end we are not just floating spirits on clouds, but that we will have our bodies: standing on our own two legs, smelling the dirt, feeling the dew, and smiling our own smile. Thank you for the resurrection of the body! Through Jesus our Lord, amen.

## Blessing

Thanks be to God! **He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

(1 Corinthians 15:57)



## Easter · Day 25 · Wednesday



### Preparing

Pour water from a pitcher into a bowl and then dip your hands into the water to remember or look forward to your baptism—your dying and rising with Christ.



### Inviting

Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**



### Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



### Singing

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Christ the Lord is risen indeed. (p. 832)



### Bible Reading: Job 19:25–27

I know that my redeemer lives.

In the end he will stand on the earth.

Though my skin will be destroyed,

in my body I'll see God.

I myself will see him with my own eyes.

I'll see him, and he won't be a stranger to me.

How my heart longs for that day!



### Dwelling

I wonder what it will be like to see God? I wonder what God might say to us?



## Praying

- for people who are sad because someone they love has died
- for babysitters



Lord Jesus, we're so glad you won't be a stranger to us on the day we first see you. When we see you face to face, we'll recognize you, like a newborn baby who recognizes her mother even though for nine months they never saw each other. We can't wait to see you, Lord! Amen.

## Blessing

Thanks be to God! **He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

(1 Corinthians 15:57)



## Easter · Day 26 · Thursday



### Preparing

Pour water from a pitcher into a bowl and then dip your hands into the water to remember or look forward to your baptism—your dying and rising with Christ.



### Inviting

Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**



### Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



### Singing

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Christ the Lord is risen indeed. (p. 832)



### Bible Reading: John 14:1–3, 27

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God. Believe in me also. There are many rooms in my Father’s house. If this were not true, would I have told you that I am going there? Would I have told you that I would prepare a place for you there? If I go and do that, I will come back. And I will take you to be with me. Then you will also be where I am.

“I leave my peace with you. I give my peace to you. I do not give it to you as the world does. Do not let your hearts be troubled. And do not be afraid.”



### Dwelling

Imagine sitting next to Jesus and listening to these words. . . . Is there anything you’d like to ask Jesus about?

## Praying

- for nurses and doctors
- for the countries of Europe



Dear Jesus, some goodbyes come with that sad feeling of “what if this is the last time I see you?” But you promise that we will see you again. You are coming back so we can be home together. Thank you for the home that you are even now making ready. Amen.

## Blessing

Thanks be to God! **He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

(1 Corinthians 15:57)



## Easter - Day 27 - Friday



### Preparing

Pour water from a pitcher into a bowl and then dip your hands into the water to remember or look forward to your baptism—your dying and rising with Christ.



### Inviting

Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**



### Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



### Singing

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Christ the Lord is risen indeed. (p. 832)



### Bible Reading: Psalm 16:8–11

I keep my eyes always on the LORD.

He is at my right hand.

So I will always be secure.

So my heart is glad. Joy is on my tongue.

My body also will be secure.

You will not leave me in the place of the dead.

You will not let your faithful one rot away.

You always show me the path of life.

You will fill me with joy when I am with you.

You will make me happy forever at your right hand.

## Dwelling

As you listen to the reading, what feelings are in your heart? Is there anything you would like to tell God about?



## Praying

- for our future in God's kingdom
- for open hands that share our blessings



God, you make us secure. When we say goodbye to someone—even if it's a goodbye because they died—you don't say goodbye. You are still at their right hand. They are always safe with you. That makes me feel better because some goodbyes really hurt. In Jesus' name, amen.

## Blessing

Thanks be to God! **He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

(1 Corinthians 15:57)



## Easter - Day 28 - Saturday



### Preparing

Pour water from a pitcher into a bowl and then dip your hands into the water to remember or look forward to your baptism—your dying and rising with Christ.



### Inviting

Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**



### Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



### Singing

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Christ the Lord is risen indeed. (p. 832)



### Bible Reading: Romans 8:11, 31–35

The Spirit of God who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you. So the God who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your bodies. He will do this because of his Spirit who lives in you.

What should we say then? Since God is on our side, who can be against us? God did not spare his own Son. He gave him up for us all. Then won't he also freely give us everything else? Who can bring any charge against God's chosen ones? God makes us right with himself. Then who can sentence us to death? No one. Christ Jesus is at the right hand of God and is also praying for us. He died. More than that, he was raised to life. Who can separate us from Christ's love?

## Dwelling

Is there a word or phrase that stays in your mind? Slowly repeat it. . . . What might the Spirit be saying to you?



## Praying

- for youth leaders and youth groups
- for broken relationships in our church to be healed



Christ Jesus, not only did you give yourself for us, and not only are you (even now!) praying for us, but the very same Spirit that raised you from the dead lives in us! Forgive us for being so scared and grumpy when someone so big and joyous is on our side and loves us as you do. Amen.

## Blessing

Thanks be to God! **He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

(1 Corinthians 15:57)



## Easter - Day 29 - Fifth Sunday



### Preparing

Pour water from a pitcher into a bowl and then dip your hands into the water to remember or look forward to your baptism—your dying and rising with Christ.



### Inviting

[Jesus said,] “I am the resurrection and the life. **The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.**” (John 11:25)



### Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



### Singing

He is Lord, he is Lord, he is risen from the dead, and he is Lord!

Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. (p. 833)



### Bible Reading: Psalm 20:5–8

May we shout for joy over your victory.

May we lift up our flags in the name of our God.

May the LORD give you everything you ask for.

Now I know that the LORD gives victory to his anointed king.

He answers him from his sacred home in heaven.

The power of God’s right hand gives victory to the king.

Some trust in chariots. Some trust in horses.

But we trust in the LORD our God.

They are brought to their knees and fall down.

But we get up and stand firm.



## Dwelling

I wonder what “chariots and horses” we are tempted to trust in for safety? I wonder what to think of God’s victory?



## Praying

God of victory, you showed your power over sin and death by raising Jesus from the dead. You are bigger and stronger than anything that could harm us. We stand firm in you.



*Close your prayer time by saying the Lord’s Prayer together.*

## Blessing

[Jesus said,] “I am with you always, **to the very end of the age.**” (Matthew 28:20)



## Easter - Day 30 - Monday



### Preparing

Pour water from a pitcher into a bowl and then dip your hands into the water to remember or look forward to your baptism—your dying and rising with Christ.



### Inviting

[Jesus said,] “I am the resurrection and the life. **The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.**” (John 11:25)



### Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



### Singing

He is Lord, he is Lord, he is risen from the dead, and he is Lord!

Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. (p. 833)



### Bible Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:51–57

Listen! I am telling you a mystery. We will not all die. But we will all be changed. That will happen in a flash, as quickly as you can wink an eye. It will happen at the blast of the last trumpet. Then the dead will be raised to live forever. And we will be changed. Our natural bodies don't last forever. They must be dressed with what does last forever. . . . What dies must be dressed with what does not die. In fact, that is going to happen. What does not last will be dressed with what lasts forever. Then what is written will come true. It says, “Death has been swallowed up. It has lost the battle.” (Isaiah 25:8)

“Death, where is the victory you thought you had?

Death, where is your sting?” (Hosea 13:14)

The sting of death is sin. And the power of sin is the law. But let us give thanks to God! He gives us the victory because of what our Lord Jesus Christ has done.

## Dwelling

I wonder what will be the same and what will be different with our new resurrected bodies? I wonder how you feel about that last trumpet?



## Praying

- praise God who created heaven and earth and everything in them
- offer thanks for the ways you've enjoyed God's creation lately



Mighty God, thank you that death isn't the end of the story. Jesus rose from the dead, and one day we will too. One day there won't be any more death or dying. We will be changed, and we will live forever. Thank you for this great mystery and for the hope you give us. Amen.

## Blessing

[Jesus said,] "I am with you always, **to the very end of the age.**" (Matthew 28:20)



## Easter · Day 31 · Tuesday



### Preparing

Pour water from a pitcher into a bowl and then dip your hands into the water to remember or look forward to your baptism—your dying and rising with Christ.



### Inviting

[Jesus said,] “I am the resurrection and the life. **The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.**” (John 11:25)



### Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



### Singing

He is Lord, he is Lord, he is risen from the dead, and he is Lord!

Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. (p. 833)



### Bible Reading: 1 John 3:1–2

See what amazing love the Father has given us! Because of it, we are called children of God. And that’s what we really are! The world doesn’t know us because it didn’t know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God. He still hasn’t let us know what we will be. But we know that when Christ appears, we will be like him. That’s because we will see him as he really is.



### Dwelling

I wonder what you will say to Jesus when you first see Jesus face to face? I wonder what you want to say to Jesus now?

### Praying

- for artists who help us see things differently
- for making time to enjoy God's creation



Father, you have adopted us as your children, and you are making us more and more like Jesus. But you aren't done yet. When Jesus returns we will see him and we will be like him, without any sin. Thank you! Remind us today that we are your beloved children and that you are at work in our lives. Amen.

### Blessing

[Jesus said,] "I am with you always, **to the very end of the age.**" (Matthew 28:20)



## Easter · Day 32 · Wednesday



### Preparing

Pour water from a pitcher into a bowl and then dip your hands into the water to remember or look forward to your baptism—your dying and rising with Christ.



### Inviting

[Jesus said,] “I am the resurrection and the life. **The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.**” (John 11:25)



### Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



### Singing

He is Lord, he is Lord, he is risen from the dead, and he is Lord!

Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. (p. 833)



### Bible Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:9–12

What we know now is not complete. What we prophesy now is not perfect.

But when what is complete comes, the things that are not complete will pass away. When I was a child, I talked like a child. I thought like a child. I had the understanding of a child. When I became [grown], I put the ways of childhood behind me. Now we see only a dim likeness of things. It is as if we were seeing them in a foggy mirror. But someday we will see clearly. We will see face to face. What I know now is not complete. But someday I will know completely, just as God knows me completely.



### Dwelling

I wonder it will be like to see Jesus face to face? I wonder what it will be like to see clearly and know completely?

## Praying

- for people preparing for marriage
- for people who want to have children



Jesus, there is so much that we don't understand about you, about the world, and even about ourselves. Thank you for the promise that one day we will see clearly and know completely. Thank you that even though there is a lot we don't know, you know us completely and you completely love us. Amen.

## Blessing

[Jesus said,] "I am with you always, **to the very end of the age.**" (Matthew 28:20)



## Easter · Day 33 · Thursday



### Preparing

Pour water from a pitcher into a bowl and then dip your hands into the water to remember or look forward to your baptism—your dying and rising with Christ.



### Inviting

[Jesus said,] “I am the resurrection and the life. **The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.**” (John 11:25)



### Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



### Singing

He is Lord, he is Lord, he is risen from the dead, and he is Lord!

Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. (p. 833)



### Bible Reading: **Philippians 3:10–14, 20–21**

I want to know Christ better. Yes, I want to know the power that raised him from the dead. I want to join him in his sufferings. I want to become like him by sharing in his death. Then by God’s grace I will rise from the dead.

I have not yet received all these things. I have not yet reached my goal. Christ Jesus took hold of me so that I could reach that goal. So I keep pushing myself forward to reach it. Brothers and sisters, I don’t consider that I have taken hold of it yet. But here is the one thing I do. I forget what is behind me. I push hard toward what is ahead of me. I push myself forward toward the goal to win the prize. God has appointed me to win it. The heavenly prize is Christ Jesus himself.



But we are citizens of heaven. And we can hardly wait for a Savior from there. He is the Lord Jesus Christ. He has the power to bring everything under his control. By his power he will change our earthly bodies. They will become like his glorious body.

## Dwelling

Is there a word or phrase that stays in your mind from what you have heard? What might the Spirit be saying to you?



## Praying

- for people who work with computers and technology
- for Australia and the countries of the Pacific Islands



Jesus, we want to know you better in joy and suffering. We are eager to see you, our goal and our prize. Amen.

## Blessing

[Jesus said,] "I am with you always, **to the very end of the age.**" (Matthew 28:20)



## Easter - Day 34 - Friday



### Preparing

Pour water from a pitcher into a bowl and then dip your hands into the water to remember or look forward to your baptism—your dying and rising with Christ.



### Inviting

[Jesus said,] “I am the resurrection and the life. **The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.**” (John 11:25)



### Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



### Singing

He is Lord, he is Lord, he is risen from the dead, and he is Lord!

Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. (p. 833)



### Bible Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:20–26

But Christ really has been raised from the dead. He is the first of all those who will rise from the dead. Death came because of what a man did. Rising from the dead also comes because of what a man did. Because of Adam, all people die. So because of Christ, all will be made alive. But here is the order of events. Christ is the first of those who rise from the dead. When he comes back, those who belong to him will be raised. Then the end will come after Christ destroys all rule, authority and power. Then he will hand over the kingdom to God the Father. Christ must rule until he has put all his enemies under his control. The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.

## Dwelling

I wonder if God is telling us to do something? Is God promising to do something?



## Praying

- for the Holy Spirit to make us more like Jesus
- for God's love to become more real to us



Jesus, the future is in your hands. You rose from the dead, and one day I will rise from the dead too. One day you will come back and you will be king. And everything broken by sin will be made right again. Thank you for that day. Amen.

## Blessing

[Jesus said,] "I am with you always, **to the very end of the age.**" (Matthew 28:20)



## Easter · Day 35 · Saturday



### Preparing

Pour water from a pitcher into a bowl and then dip your hands into the water to remember or look forward to your baptism—your dying and rising with Christ.



### Inviting

[Jesus said,] “I am the resurrection and the life. **The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.**” (John 11:25)



### Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



### Singing

He is Lord, he is Lord, he is risen from the dead, and he is Lord!

Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. (p. 833)



### Bible Reading: 2 Thessalonians 1:7, 10–12

[God] will help you who are troubled. And he will also help us. All these things will happen when the Lord Jesus appears from heaven. . . . On that day his glory will be seen in his holy people. Everyone who has believed will be amazed when they see him. This includes you, because you believed the witness we gave you.

Keeping this in mind, we never stop praying for you. Our God has chosen you. We pray that he will make you worthy of his choice. We pray he will make every good thing you want to do come true. We pray that he will do this by his power. We pray that he will make perfect all that you have done by faith. We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus will receive glory through what you have done. We also pray that you will receive glory through what he has done. We pray all these things in keeping with the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

## Dwelling

I wonder how Jesus can receive glory through us? I wonder what will amaze us about Jesus when He appears?



## Praying

- for friendships to grow with people who visit our church
- for the church to hunger for God's Word and live it out



Lord, we can hardly imagine what it will be like to have seen your glory. Forgive us for working so hard to get glory when we already have glory because of what you've done. We also pray for all who don't obey your good news. May we show how good the good news really is so they'll think again about you. Amen.

## Blessing

[Jesus said,] "I am with you always, **to the very end of the age.**" (Matthew 28:20)



## Easter - Day 36 - Sixth Sunday



### Preparing

Pour water from a pitcher into a bowl and then dip your hands into the water to remember or look forward to your baptism—your dying and rising with Christ.



### Inviting

[Jesus said,] “I am the resurrection and the life. **The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.**” (John 11:25)



### Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



### Singing

He is Lord, he is Lord, he is risen from the dead, and he is Lord!

Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. (p. 833)



### Bible Reading: Psalm 45:3–4, 6–7, 17

Mighty one, put your sword at your side.

Put on glory and majesty as if they were your clothes.

In your majesty ride out with power

to fight for what is true, humble and fair.

Let your right hand do wonderful things. . . .

Your throne is the very throne of God.

Your kingdom will last for ever and ever.

You will rule by treating everyone fairly.

You love what is right and hate what is evil.

So your God has placed you above your companions.

He has filled you with joy by pouring the sacred oil on your head.

I will make sure that people will always remember you.

The nations will praise you for ever and ever.

## Dwelling

As you listen to the reading, what feelings are in your heart? Is there anything you would like to tell Jesus?



## Praying

Jesus, some rulers are good and some are bad. You are the best ruler of all because you rule with love and fairness for all people. We bow before you now, praying for your kingdom to come in our hearts and in our world.



*Close your prayer time by saying the Lord's Prayer together.*

## Blessing

[Jesus said,] "I am with you always, **to the very end of the age.**" (Matthew 28:20)



## Easter - Day 37 - Monday



### Preparing

Pour water from a pitcher into a bowl and then dip your hands into the water to remember or look forward to your baptism—your dying and rising with Christ.



### Inviting

[Jesus said,] "I am the resurrection and the life. **The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.**" (John 11:25)



### Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



### Singing

He is Lord, he is Lord, he is risen from the dead, and he is Lord!  
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. (p. 833)



### Bible Reading: Daniel 7:9–10, 13–14

"As I watched,

"thrones were set in place.

The Eternal God took his seat.

His clothes were as white as snow.

The hair on his head was white like wool.

His throne was blazing with fire.

And flames were all around its wheels.

A river of fire was flowing.

It was coming out from in front of God.

Thousands and thousands of angels served him.

Millions of them stood in front of him.



The court was seated.

And the books were opened.

“In my vision I saw one who looked like a son of man. He was coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Eternal God. He was led right up to him. And he was given authority, glory and a kingdom. People of all nations, no matter what language they spoke, worshiped him. His authority will last forever. It will not pass away. His kingdom will never be destroyed.”

## Dwelling

Is there a picture that comes to mind from what you have heard? What might it show us about God?



## Praying

- praise God the Trinity
- offer thanks for the ways God blesses us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit



Most High Jesus, we sometimes don't see how great you really are. A shining angel could not be led up to God's throne. But you were led right up. You are the Great King, Lord Jesus, so we say "yes" to your command over us, today and always. Amen.

## Blessing

[Jesus said,] "I am with you always, **to the very end of the age.**" (Matthew 28:20)



## Easter - Day 38 - Tuesday



### Preparing

Pour water from a pitcher into a bowl and then dip your hands into the water to remember or look forward to your baptism—your dying and rising with Christ.



### Inviting

[Jesus said,] “I am the resurrection and the life. **The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.**” (John 11:25)



### Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



### Singing

He is Lord, he is Lord, he is risen from the dead, and he is Lord!

Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. (p. 833)



### Bible Reading: Matthew 28:16–20

Then the 11 disciples went to Galilee. They went to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him. But some still had their doubts. Then Jesus came to them. He said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. So you must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And you can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end.”



### Dwelling

Imagine sitting next to Jesus and listening to these words. . . . Is there anything you’d like to ask him about?

### Praying

- for healthy seeds and soil
- for a commitment to reduce, reuse, and recycle, and to rethink our habits



Lord Jesus, we don't call the shots anymore. You do. Our job is to do what you say. Our job is to tell other people about you and help them to follow you too. It's a really big job, and we're not always sure we're up to it. Thank you that you promise always to be right next to us. Amen.

### Blessing

[Jesus said,] "I am with you always, **to the very end of the age.**" (Matthew 28:20)



## Easter - Day 39 - Wednesday



### Preparing

Pour water from a pitcher into a bowl and then dip your hands into the water to remember or look forward to your baptism—your dying and rising with Christ.



### Inviting

[Jesus said,] “I am the resurrection and the life. **The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.**” (John 11:25)



### Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



### Singing

He is Lord, he is Lord, he is risen from the dead, and he is Lord!

Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. (p. 833)



### Bible Reading: Luke 24:44–50

Jesus said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you. Everything written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms must come true.”

Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, “This is what is written. The Messiah will suffer. He will rise from the dead on the third day. His followers will preach in his name. They will tell others to turn away from their sins and be forgiven. People from every nation will hear it, beginning at Jerusalem. You have seen these things with your own eyes. I am going to send you what my Father has promised. But for now, stay in the city. Stay there until you have received power from heaven.”

Jesus led his disciples out to the area near Bethany. Then he lifted up his hands and blessed them.

## Dwelling

I wonder how the disciples felt when Jesus told them all this? I wonder what it is like to be blessed by Jesus?



## Praying

- for our neighbors and neighborhood
- for people who face confusing choices



Jesus, it is all about you—every word in the Old Testament and New is telling the good news of you. And now you want us to join in and tell too—tell our friends, our neighbors, and the whole world. But we can't do it without your power from heaven. Come, Holy Spirit. Amen.

## Blessing

[Jesus said,] "I am with you always, **to the very end of the age.**" (Matthew 28:20)



## Easter · Day 40 · Thursday · Ascension Day



### Preparing

Pour water from a pitcher into a bowl and then dip your hands into the water to remember or look forward to your baptism—your dying and rising with Christ.



### Inviting

[Jesus said,] “I am the resurrection and the life. **The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.**” (John 11:25)



### Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



### Singing

He is Lord, he is Lord, he is risen from the dead, and he is Lord!

Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. (p. 833)



### Bible Reading: Psalm 47:5–6; Acts 1:3–9

God went up to his throne while his people were shouting with joy.

The LORD went up while trumpets were playing.

Sing praises to God. Sing praises.

Sing praises to our King. Sing praises.

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After his suffering and death, [Jesus] appeared to them. In many ways he proved that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of 40 days. During that time he spoke about God’s kingdom. One day Jesus was eating with them. He gave them a command. “Do not leave Jerusalem,” he said. “Wait for the gift my Father promised. You have heard me talk about it. John baptized with water. But in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

# Ascension Day · Thursday · Day 40 · Easter

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Then the apostles gathered around Jesus and asked him a question. "Lord," they said, "are you going to give the kingdom back to Israel now?"

He said to them, "You should not be concerned about times or dates. The Father has set them by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you. Then you will tell people about me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria. And you will even tell other people about me from one end of the earth to the other."

After Jesus said this, he was taken up to heaven. The apostles watched until a cloud hid him from their sight.

## Dwelling

I wonder how Jesus felt about leaving the disciples? I wonder what it was like to watch Jesus go up to heaven?



## Praying

- for police officers, fire fighters, and people who work to keep us safe
- for the countries of Africa



What does it mean, Lord, that you, a flesh-and-blood human like us, would go up to sit on the throne of the universe? And you call us to continue your work. Thank you for the gift of your Spirit and your prayers as we tell the whole world about you. Amen.

## Blessing

[Jesus said,] "I am with you always, **to the very end of the age.**" (Matthew 28:20)



## Easter · Day 41 · Friday



### Preparing

Pour water from a pitcher into a bowl and then dip your hands into the water to remember or look forward to your baptism—your dying and rising with Christ.



### Inviting

[Jesus said,] “I am the resurrection and the life. **The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.**” (John 11:25)



### Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



### Singing

He is Lord, he is Lord, he is risen from the dead, and he is Lord!

Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. (p. 833)



### Bible Reading: Hebrews 2:8–9

So God has put everything under his Son. Everything is under his control. We do not now see everything under his control. But we do see Jesus already given a crown of glory and honor. He was made lower than the angels for a little while. He suffered death. By the grace of God, he tasted death for everyone. That is why he was given his crown.



### Dwelling

Imagine sitting with Jesus and listening to these words. . . . Is there anything you’d like to ask Jesus?



## Praying

- for trust in God's goodness, even when we can't see it
- for greater obedience to the Lord



Jesus, whatever the problems are in my life, I know you can take care of them. You can take care of this whole world because you died for it and you rose again to make it right. We're so glad you have the crown. You deserve all the glory and the honor! Amen.

## Blessing

[Jesus said,] "I am with you always, **to the very end of the age.**" (Matthew 28:20)



## Easter · Day 42 · Saturday



### Preparing

Pour water from a pitcher into a bowl and then dip your hands into the water to remember or look forward to your baptism—your dying and rising with Christ.



### Inviting

[Jesus said,] “I am the resurrection and the life. **The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.**” (John 11:25)



### Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



### Singing

He is Lord, he is Lord, he is risen from the dead, and he is Lord!

Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. (p. 833)



### Bible Reading: Revelation 1:10, 12–14, 17–18

The Holy Spirit gave me [John] a vision on the Lord’s Day. I heard a loud voice behind me that sounded like a trumpet.

I turned around to see who was speaking to me. When I turned, I saw seven golden lampstands. In the middle of them was someone who looked “like a son of man.” (Daniel 7:13) He was dressed in a long robe with a gold strip of cloth around his chest. The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow. His eyes were like a blazing fire.

When I saw him, I fell at his feet as if I were dead. Then he put his right hand on me and said, “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One. I was dead. But now look! I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys to Death and Hell.”

## Dwelling

I wonder what it is like to see Jesus? I wonder what it would be like to hear Jesus say, “Do not be afraid”?



## Praying

- for new believers
- for everyone to be included and able to use their gifts at church



Glorious Jesus, no wonder John fell down! You are not just the teacher from Nazareth anymore. You blaze out beauty, clothed in gold and glory. And yet you lay your hand on us, we who hurt you, and you say “It’s okay. It’s me. Don’t be afraid. I died for you.” We worship you, Most High Jesus. Amen.

## Blessing

[Jesus said,] “I am with you always, **to the very end of the age.**” (Matthew 28:20)



## Easter · Day 43 · Seventh Sunday



### Preparing

Pour water from a pitcher into a bowl and then dip your hands into the water to remember or look forward to your baptism—your dying and rising with Christ.



### Inviting

[Jesus said,] “I am the resurrection and the life. **The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.**” (John 11:25)



### Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



### Singing

He is Lord, he is Lord, he is risen from the dead, and he is Lord!

Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. (p. 833)



### Bible Reading: Psalm 110:1–4, 7

The LORD says to my lord,

“Sit at my right hand  
until I put your enemies  
under your control.”

The LORD will make your royal authority spread out from Zion to other lands.

He says, “Rule over your enemies who are all around you.”

Your troops will be willing to fight for you  
on the day of battle.

Your young men will be wrapped in holy majesty.

They will come to you like the fresh dew that falls early in the morning.

The LORD has made a promise.

He will not change his mind.

He has said, "You are a priest forever,  
just like Melchizedek."

He will drink from a brook along the way and receive new strength.

And so he will win the battle.

## Dwelling

I wonder if there is a word or phrase that stays in your mind? I wonder what that word tells us about God?



## Praying

Risen Jesus, you won the battle over sin and death. And you will reign over all the earth. Let the good news of your love spread to every part of the world and every part of our lives too. Give us fresh faith, strong for you.



*Close your prayer time by saying the Lord's Prayer together.*

## Blessing

[Jesus said,] "I am with you always, **to the very end of the age.**" (Matthew 28:20)



## Easter · Day 44 · Monday



### Preparing

Pour water from a pitcher into a bowl and then dip your hands into the water to remember or look forward to your baptism—your dying and rising with Christ.



### Inviting

[Jesus said,] “I am the resurrection and the life. **The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.**” (John 11:25)



### Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



### Singing

He is Lord, he is Lord, he is risen from the dead, and he is Lord!

Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. (p. 833)



### Bible Reading: Hebrews 10:12–14, 21–22

Jesus our priest offered one sacrifice for sins for all time. Then he sat down at the right hand of God. And since that time, he waits for his enemies to be put under his control. By that one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

We also have a great priest over the house of God. So let us come near to God with a sincere heart. Let us come near boldly because of our faith. Our hearts have been sprinkled. Our minds have been cleansed from a sense of guilt. Our bodies have been washed with pure water.

## Dwelling

I wonder what Jesus enjoys about being the great high priest? I wonder how we can come to Jesus with an honest heart now?



## Praying

- praise God for being holy and set apart
- offer thanks for the ways God makes us holy



Jesus, you became human so that we can come near to God. You laid down your life for us as a sacrifice so that we would be set apart for God. We thank you that now we can come close to you. Jesus opened the way, so we don't have to be afraid. Amen.

## Blessing

[Jesus said,] "I am with you always, **to the very end of the age.**" (Matthew 28:20)



## Easter · Day 45 · Tuesday



### Preparing

Pour water from a pitcher into a bowl and then dip your hands into the water to remember or look forward to your baptism—your dying and rising with Christ.



### Inviting

[Jesus said,] “I am the resurrection and the life. **The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.**” (John 11:25)



### Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



### Singing

He is Lord, he is Lord, he is risen from the dead, and he is Lord!

Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. (p. 833)



### Bible Reading: Hebrews 9:24–28

Christ did not enter a sacred tent made with human hands. That tent was only a copy of the true one. He entered heaven itself. He did it to stand in front of God for us. He is there right now. The high priest enters the Most Holy Room every year. He enters with blood that is not his own. But Christ did not enter heaven to offer himself again and again. If he had, he would have had to suffer many times since the world was created. But he has appeared once and for all time. He has come at the time when God’s work is being completed. He has come to do away with sin by offering himself. People have to die once. After that, God will judge them. In the same way, Christ was offered up once. He took away the sins of many people. He will also come a second time. At that time he will not suffer for sin. Instead, he will come to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.



### Dwelling

I wonder what feelings are in your heart as you listen to this reading? I wonder if there's anything you'd like to ask God?



### Praying

- for people or places without clean water
- for wise energy use that does not harm God's creation



Jesus, after you died and rose again, you entered heaven. You are there now, praying for us. Thank you that when you come again to judge all people we don't have to be afraid. The judge is our Savior. Amen.

### Blessing

[Jesus said,] "I am with you always, **to the very end of the age.**" (Matthew 28:20)



## Easter - Day 46 - Wednesday



### Preparing

Pour water from a pitcher into a bowl and then dip your hands into the water to remember or look forward to your baptism—your dying and rising with Christ.



### Inviting

[Jesus said,] “I am the resurrection and the life. **The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.**” (John 11:25)



### Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



### Singing

He is Lord, he is Lord, he is risen from the dead, and he is Lord!

Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. (p. 833)



### Bible Reading: Acts 1:10–15

While [Jesus] was going up, they kept on looking at the sky. Suddenly two men dressed in white clothing stood beside them. “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking at the sky? Jesus has been taken away from you into heaven. But he will come back in the same way you saw him go.”

The apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives. It is just over half a mile from the city. When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Here is a list of those who were there.

Peter, John, James and Andrew,  
Philip and Thomas,  
Bartholomew and Matthew,  
James son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot and Judas son of James

They all came together regularly to pray. The women joined them too. So did Jesus' mother Mary and his brothers.

About 120 of [the believers] were there.

## Dwelling

I wonder what Jesus' mom and brothers thought about the cross, the empty tomb, and the ascension of their son and big brother? I wonder what some of the words were that the followers prayed?



## Praying

- for people who are struggling with their faith
- for close friends



Ascended Jesus, thank you for the promise that you will return. Thank you for not leaving us alone! You sent your Spirit to dwell with us, and you give us the friendship of other believers so we can pray and serve together. For your sake, amen.

## Blessing

[Jesus said,] "I am with you always, **to the very end of the age.**" (Matthew 28:20)



## Easter · Day 47 · Thursday



### Preparing

Pour water from a pitcher into a bowl and then dip your hands into the water to remember or look forward to your baptism—your dying and rising with Christ.



### Inviting

[Jesus said,] “I am the resurrection and the life. **The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.**” (John 11:25)



### Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



### Singing

He is Lord, he is Lord, he is risen from the dead, and he is Lord!

Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. (p. 833)



### Bible Reading: Luke 11:9–13

“So here is what I say to you. Ask, and it will be given to you. Search, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you. Everyone who asks will receive. The one who searches will find. And the door will be opened to the one who knocks.

“Fathers, suppose your son asks for a fish. Which of you will give him a snake instead? Or suppose he asks for an egg. Which of you will give him a scorpion? Even though you are evil, you know how to give good gifts to your children. How much more will your Father who is in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

## Dwelling

I wonder if there is something we can ask, search, and knock for right now? I wonder what you want to tell the Holy Spirit?



## Praying

- for daycare workers
- for the countries of the Americas



Father, you are not mean. You give good gifts to your sons and daughters, and you listen when we ask you for things. Please give us more of your Holy Spirit so that we will be more like Jesus. Amen.

## Blessing

[Jesus said,] "I am with you always, **to the very end of the age.**" (Matthew 28:20)



## Easter - Day 48 - Friday



### Preparing

Pour water from a pitcher into a bowl and then dip your hands into the water to remember or look forward to your baptism—your dying and rising with Christ.



### Inviting

[Jesus said,] “I am the resurrection and the life. **The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.**” (John 11:25)



### Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



### Singing

He is Lord, he is Lord, he is risen from the dead, and he is Lord!

Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. (p. 833)



### Bible Reading: John 14:26–27; 16:5–7, 12–13

“The Father will send the Friend in my name to help you. The Friend is the Holy Spirit. He will teach you all things. He will remind you of everything I have said to you. I leave my peace with you. I give my peace to you. I do not give it to you as the world does. Do not let your hearts be troubled. And do not be afraid.”

“But now I am going to the one who sent me. None of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ Instead, you are filled with sadness because I have said these things. But what I’m about to tell you is true. It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Friend will not come to help you. But if I go, I will send him to you.

“I have much more to say to you. It is more than you can handle right now. But when the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own. He will speak only what he hears. And he will tell you what is still going to happen.”

## Dwelling

I wonder how the Holy Spirit teaches us? I wonder what the Holy Spirit helps us remember?



## Praying

- for a humble willingness to be taught
- for eyes to see the Holy Spirit's work



Holy Spirit, Friend, we're glad you're with us. Teach us. Help us. Remind us of the things Jesus said and did. Make us calm and brave and more and more like Jesus. Amen.

## Blessing

[Jesus said,] “I am with you always, **to the very end of the age.**” (Matthew 28:20)



## Easter · Day 49 · Saturday



### Preparing

Pour water from a pitcher into a bowl and then dip your hands into the water to remember or look forward to your baptism—your dying and rising with Christ.



### Inviting

[Jesus said,] “I am the resurrection and the life. **The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.**” (John 11:25)



### Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



### Singing

He is Lord, he is Lord, he is risen from the dead, and he is Lord!

Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. (p. 833)



### Bible Reading: Joel 2:28–30, 32

“After that, I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy.

Your old men will have dreams.

Your young men will have visions.

In those days I will pour out my Spirit

on those who serve me, men and women alike.

I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth.

There will be blood and fire and clouds of smoke. . . .

Everyone who calls out to me will be saved.”



## Dwelling

I wonder what you think of God's Spirit? I wonder how God feels about pouring out the Holy Spirit?



## Praying

- for missionaries
- for the prayer ministries and prayer warriors of the church



Holy Spirit, living water, thank you for drenching us. Open our eyes to see you at work. Help us to pay attention to you and to share the gifts you have given us. Use us to help others know Jesus, who saves. Amen.

## Blessing

[Jesus said,] "I am with you always, **to the very end of the age.**" (Matthew 28:20)



## Easter - Day 50 - Pentecost Sunday



### Preparing

Pour water from a pitcher into a bowl and then dip your hands into the water to remember or look forward to your baptism—your dying and rising with Christ.



### Inviting

God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, **who has been given to us.** (Romans 5:5)



### Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



### Singing

Come, Lord Jesus, send us your Spirit, renew the face of the earth.

Come, Lord Jesus, send us your Spirit, renew the face of the earth. (p. 834)



### Bible Reading: Isaiah 44:3; Acts 2:1–4

"I will pour out water on the thirsty land.

I will make streams flow on the dry ground.

I will pour out my Spirit on your children.

I will pour out my blessing on their children after them."

When the day of Pentecost came, all the believers gathered in one place.

Suddenly a sound came from heaven. It was like a strong wind blowing. It filled

the whole house where they were sitting. They saw something that looked like

fire in the shape of tongues. The flames separated and came to rest on each

of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit. They began to speak in

languages they had not known before. The Spirit gave them the ability to do this.

## Dwelling

I wonder what it felt like to be filled with the Holy Spirit? I wonder what it sounded like when everyone began speaking languages they hadn't known before?



## Praying

Wind and Fire, Holy Spirit, hallelujah! We are so glad Jesus sent you to us. You are full of life—blowing, burning, and opening ears to the good news. You are the Lord and Giver of life! You surprised everyone that first Pentecost. Surprise us still today, as you empower us to tell the world about Jesus.



*Close your prayer time by saying the Lord's Prayer together.*

## Blessing

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, **and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.** (2 Corinthians 13:14)



## Songs · Easter · Days 1-14

## Oh, qué bueno es Jesús/Oh, How Good Is Christ the Lord

D Em D A

¡Oh, qué bue - no es Je - sús! Que por mí mu - rió en la cruz.  
Oh, how good is Christ the Lord! On the cross he died for me.

D G D/A A7 D

Mis pe - ca - dos per - do - nó. ¡A su nom - bre glo - ria!  
He has par - doned all my sin. Glo - ry be to Je - sus!

G A7 G/D D

¡A su nom - bre glo - ria! ¡A su nom - bre glo - ria!  
Glo - ry be to Je - sus! Glo - ry be to Je - sus!

## Days 1-14 · Easter · Songs

831

The image shows a musical score for a song. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. There are four measures of music. Above the treble staff, the chords G, D/A, A7, and D are indicated. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, with Spanish and English translations. The Spanish lyrics are: "En tres días re - su - ci - tó. ¡A su nom - bre glo - ria!". The English lyrics are: "In three days he rose a - gain. Glo - ry be to Je - sus!".

G D/A A7 D

En tres días re - su - ci - tó. ¡A su nom - bre glo - ria!  
In three days he rose a - gain. Glo - ry be to Je - sus!

Song Title: "Oh, qué bueno es Jesús" or "Oh, How Good Is Christ the Lord"

Words and Music (OH QUÉ BUENO): Puerto Rican folk hymn; harm. Dale Grotenhuis (b. 1931; d. 2012), 1985,

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## Songs · Easter · Days 15–28

## Aleluya/Alleluia

D D maj7 Em/G Em/A D maj7

A - le - lu - ya. A - le - lu - ya. A - le - lu - ya. A - le - lu - ya.  
Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

D F#m Em/G F#m/A Em/A D

A - le - lu - ya. A - le - lu - ya. El Se - ñor re - su - ci - tó.  
Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Christ the Lord is risen in - deed.

Song Title: "Aleluya" or "Alleluia"

Words and Music (ALELUYA HONDURAS): Honduran traditional; arr. John L. Bell (b. 1949) © 1995 Wild Goose Resource Group, Iona Community, Scotland, GIA Publications, Inc., exclusive North American agent

He Is Lord/Es Señor

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a bass line. Chords are indicated above the vocal line.

**System 1:** Chords: C7, F, G7, C7. Lyrics: He is Lord, he is Lord, he is ris - en from the / Es Se - ñor, es Se - ñor; re-su-ci - tó de\_en - tre los

**System 2:** Chords: F, F7, Bb, Gm7. Lyrics: dead, and he is Lord! Ev-ery knee shall bow, ev - ery / muer - tos y\_es Se - ñor. To-da ro - di - lla se do - bla - rá, ca - da

**System 3:** Chords: F/C, C7, F. Lyrics: tongue con - fess that Je - sus Christ is Lord. / len - gua con-fe - sa - rá que Cri - sto\_es el Se - ñor.

Song Title: "He Is Lord" or "Es Señor"  
 Words and Music: anonymous, P.D.; Spanish tr. basada en Filipenses 2:5-9;  
 harm. Dale Grotenhuis (b. 1931; d. 2012) © 1987 Faith Alive Christian Resources

# Songs · Easter · Pentecost Sunday—Ordinary Time · Day 13

## Come, Lord Jesus/Señor, envía tu Espíritu Santo

① D G/D ② D G/D

Se - ñor, Come, Lord Je - sus, send us your Spir - it, re -  
 en - ví - a tu\_Es - pí - ri - tu San - to; re -

D Em G2 A

nue - va the la faz of the earth. tie - rra. Se -

D G/D D G/D

Come, Lord Je - sus, send us your Spir - it, re -  
 ñor, en - ví - a tu\_Es - pí - ri - tu San - to; re -



# Pentecost Sunday—Ordinary Time · Day 13 · Easter · Songs

835

The image shows a musical score for a song. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The chords are indicated by letters above the treble staff: D, Em, G, and D. A dashed oval is drawn around the first two notes of the melody, and a dashed line connects the first and last notes of the melody. The lyrics are: "new nue - va the la face faz of de the la earth. tie - rra."

*This song can be sung as a round or canon, as indicated by the numbers.*

Song Title: "Send Us Your Spirit" or "Señor, envía tu Espíritu Santo"

Words and Music (SEND US YOUR SPIRIT): David Haas (b. 1957) © 1981, 1982, 1987 GIA Publications, Inc.;

Spanish tr. Ronald F. Krisman (b. 1946) © 2005 GIA Publications, Inc.

## Lord's Prayer - Sundays



Our Father in heaven,  
 may your name be honored.  
 May your kingdom come.  
 May what you want to happen be done  
 on earth as it is done in heaven.  
 Give us today our daily bread.  
 And forgive us our sins,  
 just as we also have forgiven those who sin against us.  
 Keep us from sinning when we are tempted.  
 Save us from the evil one.  
 For yours is the kingdom, and power, and glory for ever. Amen.  
 NIrV



Our Father in heaven,  
 hallowed be your name.  
 Your kingdom come.  
 Your will be done,  
 on earth as it is in heaven.  
 Give us this day our daily bread.  
 And forgive us our debts,  
 as we also have forgiven our debtors.  
 And do not bring us to the time of trial,  
 but rescue us from the evil one.  
 For the kingdom and the power and the glory are yours forever. Amen.  
 NRSV

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Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.  
ELLC



Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For yours is the kingdom, and power, and glory for ever. Amen.  
ESV



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## Lord's Prayer - Sundays



Padre nuestro que estás en el cielo,  
 santificado sea tu nombre,  
 venga tu reino,  
 hágase tu voluntad  
 en la tierra como en el cielo.  
 Danos hoy nuestro pan cotidiano.  
 Perdónanos nuestras deudas,  
 como también nosotros hemos perdonado a nuestros deudores.  
 Y no nos dejes caer en tentación,  
 sino líbranos del maligno.  
 Porque tuyo es el reino, y el poder, y la gloria, por todos los siglos. Amén.  
 NVI



Padre nuestro que estás en los cielos,  
 santificado sea tu nombre.  
 Venga tu reino.  
 Hágase tu voluntad,  
 como en el cielo, así también en la tierra.  
 El pan nuestro de cada día, dánoslo hoy.  
 Y perdónanos nuestras deudas,  
 como también nosotros perdonamos a nuestros deudores.  
 Y no nos metas en tentación,  
 mas líbranos del mal;  
 porque tuyo es el reino, y el poder, y la gloria, por todos los siglos. Amén.  
 RVR

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