



Easter 2020

Church at Home

AHEAD OF TIME ...

Tell your family (or whoever you will be worshipping with) what you would like to do on Easter Sunday. Give them a forecast of what to expect (including a start time that works for everyone), and why. If you have family in other parts of the country or world, consider gathering on Zoom, FaceTime, or a similar platform.

PREPARATION ...

We suggest you start your church-at-home service by cooking breakfast or brunch. Make sure to get everything you need beforehand.

While we typically celebrate The Last Supper on Thursday night, you may consider dining together on Saturday night. Read the story of the Last Supper in the Gospels, and receive communion together. You can also do communion again on Easter Sunday.

Here is a handy resource: <https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-stories/the-last-supper.html>

Explore the two timelines linked below.

<https://www.learnreligions.com/holy-week-timeline-700618>

<https://www.christianity.com/jesus/death-and-resurrection/holy-week-and-passion/a-time-line-of-the-passion-week.html>

The goal is not to go through both, but for you to understand and highlight a few things from the Scriptures.



Watch these two video clips on YouTube. Depending on who will be present during your Easter service, choose the most appropriate one to show.

Aslan's Resurrection, from The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WsOBsj8g6Dw>

The Son of God - Resurrection

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HaS-9AP96gE>

If you have a smart TV, consider having the clip queued up and ready to play before everyone assembles on Sunday morning.

Choose a couple of songs to sing together. Encourage your group to sing along - it may feel a little awkward at first, but for praising Jesus on Easter, *it's so worth it*.

We particularly like the hymns "Blessed Assurance" and "Amazing Grace" (especially Chris Tomlin's version "My Chains are Gone"), and the more recent songs "Song of Ascent" by Hillsong and "Song in My Soul" by Phil Wickham

Song of Ascent

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkbxP0rxt6E&list=LLNDFG9VEUd01NRBauza6-EQ&index=61&t=0s>

Song in My Soul

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VXAneNye_58

More song resources available at

<https://www.praisecharts.com/blog/top-40-easter-hymns-for-2015/>

THE SERVICE ...

Welcome everyone, and thank them for joining you. Let them know you want this to be a conversation and will invite them to share. Then, pray - or consider inviting your spouse to pray, or for ALL to pray.

Use the first 10 minutes to share a recap of Holy Week, right up to Good Friday. Read a couple of verses to highlight, but not more than two. We encourage you available the research sites, some in your family may be curious.

For the next 10 minutes, share that you want to watch a video that shows a bit of how this Resurrection Sunday looks. Play the video, and then ask the questions "What did you see? What did you like?"

After anyone who wanted to has commented and you have affirmed their comments, ask a few more questions: "Did you see the part where ...", "What did you think of that?" And then share what you loved or what spoke to you. Consider bringing another passage to the conversation.

For the last 10 minutes, you may want to consider offering communion. (you may) We recommend having your spouse, an adult child, or someone else in your group take charge of this portion of the service, to include them in the time together.

NOTE: If you choose to do communion, you may want to go out beforehand and purchase some saltines or bread and grape juice for observance. We like French bread!

You can find lots of outlines and “how to’s” for leading communion online.

CLOSING ...

Use 5 minutes to thank everyone for their time and engagement. PRAY together this time. We encourage you to stand and hold hands in a circle. Depending on the size and preference of your group, each person can pray or just you.

AMEN and WELL DONE! He has risen ... He has risen indeed!!!

EXTRA ...

Lastly, we HIGHLY RECOMMEND the film *Risen* for a Sunday night movie.

