

Easter Sunday Faith-In-The-Home Practices

On Easter we celebrate Jesus rising from the dead, with assurance that The Lord overcomes death and confidence that our deepest pain will never have final word. In worship opportunity includes the Remembrance of Baptism. As parishioners move from their virtual worship experience to home opportunity, we will wish to provide opportunity to reflect on the promise of their baptism and outward practices that reflect the hope we have in Christ.

Option One: Remembrance of Baptism Personalized Candle Activity

Easter is preceded by Holy Saturday. Included in a traditional Easter Vigil is celebration of our baptism, reminder that we are joined in Jesus' death and resurrection. In the Small Catechism, Martin Luther wrote, "baptism works forgiveness of sins, delivers from death and devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this." And, in these materials, you are invited on Easter to experience God's forgiving and eternal love in contextual way through light.



Materials Needed: Baptismal candle (if you have it), bowl or cup of water, wax paper piece, one piece of white tissue paper, sharpie markers, regular piece of white paper, white candle, hair dryer

- 1) If you have your baptismal candle, light it and say, "Thank you, God, for claiming me as your child."
- 2) Read Psalm 42:1-2 *As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?*
- 3) Reflect
 - a. How have you experienced thirst for God differently this Lenten season?
 - b. How does knowing you are a baptized child of God affect the way you see life?

- c. When thinking about where you most closely meet/commune with God, what image, scripture or symbol comes to mind?

This self-contemplative activity holds you in quiet purity and connection to your God. Begin by:

- Cut the piece of paper to match the size of your candle.
- Draw the image, scripture or symbol outline that came to your mind on the piece of white paper with a black marker.
- Place the tissue paper on top of your drawn pattern.
- Trace the pattern with sharpie and color it in with sharpies in the color of your choosing.
- Remove your tissue paper from on top of the copy paper and cut out your design *as close to the edge of the design as possible so it is as little as can be without cutting off any of your image.*
- Set your tissue paper image on top of the candle so that it is facing you.
- Place a piece of wax paper on top of your tissue paper image and pull it tight around your candle.
- On high heat move the blow dryer in a back in forth motion slowly and closely to your image to adhere the design to your candle. This will take at least 40 seconds.
- Pull back the edge of your wax paper to make sure the design transfer is complete. Continue heating or stop, as necessary.

Light your candle (whenever you wish) as visible reminder that God meets you, loves you, works through you, and is your light of hope.

Finish by dipping your finger in the water of your cup/bowl. If you are with someone, mark the sign of the cross on their forehead and say, "Jesus loves you and so do I." If you are doing this activity in solitude, place the sign of the cross on your own forehead and say, "I am sealed by the cross, forever."

Activity Two: He is Alive!

Holy Week takes us on an emotional experience. From the tomb to the resurrection, we can use visuals to help us understand the faith story. This is particularly effective with young children who can use imagery to better understand concepts.

Materials needed: A big box, some helium filled balloons, wrapping paper.

- On Friday
 - o Purchase some latex or mylar balloons with hifloat.
 - o Read the Good Friday story in the Bible of your choosing (Frolic, Spark, Jesus Storybook, Connect, or your personal bible of choice)
 - o Wrap the balloons inside of the large box.
 - o Ask your yourself/your child:
 - How does it feel to have the balloons sitting inside the box?
 - How do you think Jesus' friends felt when he died?

- Why do you think Jesus stayed on the cross? (*Discuss love, that God has good plans even when we can't see it*)
- On Saturday
 - Wrap box in wrapping paper.
 - Ask yourself/ your child
 - Why might we be wrapping this box in wrapping paper? (*Discuss Jesus being a gift, big day is coming*)
 - What does hopeful anticipation feel like?
- On Sunday
 - Read the Easter story in the Bible of your choosing (Frolic, Spark, Jesus Storybook, Connect, or your personal bible of choice).
 - Take the box outside & unwrap the gift, allowing the balloons to soar high.
 - Ask yourself/your child:
 - What do the balloons represent? (*Jesus' resurrection*)
 - How did you feel when you saw the balloons fly out and soar up?
 - What special hope do we have because we are God's children?

Activity Three: Window and/or Walk Witness

He is risen, indeed! With joyful hearts we proclaim with great joy our story to the world around us. During this time of social distancing, reminding others who are out walking and seeing our windows/driveways that God is FOR them and overcomes the world's troubles is hope in the darkness.

What you will need: Blue painters tape, washable paint, Dawn dish soap, and paper towels.
AND/OR sidewalk chalk.



For the Window Witness

- You will make a window others can see into a gorgeous stained glass project.
- Use the blue painters tape around the exterior of the window.

- Use the blue painters tape in the space of your window to create the outline of your cross. *Remember, you will want an open center to your cross so that it is prominent.*
- In different directions and shapes, use the blue painters tape to create the window panels.
- Mix the washable paint with dawn dish soap in approximately a 2:1 ration.
- Paint the panels to the color of your liking. *Be especially mindful of the color of your cross so that it sticks out.* You may need to go over it a couple times.
- Use paper towels to catch any drips.
- Allow it to dry.
- Pull off the blue painters tape.

For the Walk Witness (Chalk Your Walk)

- You *can* use sidewalk chalk to make a window like suggested above. Use one color for the outline and like the “painters tape” to create the window panels.
- OR, you can write out your favorite Easter Scripture verses and beautify around it.
- OR write “He is Risen” and beautiful around it.

These visuals are sure to bring the world joy. Let’s shout it out from our homes.