

Celebrate Easter

Follow these suggestions for the seven weeks of the Easter season.

Easter Week

Get rid of the old yeast. Let us celebrate this feast with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

1 Corinthians 5.8

Celebrate an Easter custom that expresses how your ancestors enculturated the Easter message. Bake or buy an Easter bread that has ethnic roots. Decorate eggs with Christian symbols and the Easter word Alleluia. Color the eggs on this page.

Let Alleluia, which means *Praise God*, be your constant prayer celebrating the Risen Christ and the Body of Christ we are. Begin meal or bedtime prayers with this Easter word.

Prayer for the Week
Alleluia!

2nd Week of Easter

Do not persist in your unbelief, but believe!

John 20.27

Most of us doubt at times in our lives. We doubt faith matters or can change the world.



We sometimes doubt that we ourselves, or people we love, or religious institutions can respond to the renewing Spirit.

Identify a specific doubt you carry. Ask for the guidance of the Spirit to resolve the doubt or to live into a new insight. Seek insight by walking and observing creation awakening to new life.

Prayer for the Week
I believe. Help my unbelief.

3rd Week of Easter

Do you love me?

John 21.17

Three times the risen Jesus asks his friend and disciple Peter the question, “Do you love me?” Perhaps Jesus asks three times because Peter denied Jesus three times. Live your answer to Jesus’ question this week. Testify in your actions that you love those with whom Jesus identifies in this world.

Give a gift of attentive, uninterrupted listening this week to two people—the one you love most and one very different from you, perhaps foreign in

culture. Remember each evening ways your actions said, “Lord, you know that I love you.”

Prayer for the Week
You know that I love you.

4th Week of Easter

My sheep hear my voice. I know them and they follow me.

John 10.27

Good shepherds care for their flocks, or employees, or clients, or students as they do for themselves. They accompany their flocks through danger, drought, and dark valleys.

Hear what God’s voice directs you to do in your daily life. Be a caring friend and coworker this week, especially to those who seem outside the flock or in danger.

Prayer of the Week
Lord, you are my shepherd. Let me hear your voice.



5th Week of Easter

I give you a new commandment:

Love one another

John 13.34

The risen Jesus makes “Love one another” the simple command he leaves with his friends. Love is not only a feeling but a verb, actions we do. Serve. Include. Forgive. Share. Reach out. Listen. Comfort.

Pay attention to local and world news events about people of other cultures and religions, or those suffering neglect or hate. Pray for them. Live your prayer and the new commandment at home and in the office. Find a way to step beyond your usual circle to help someone in need of food, education, shelter, presence.

Prayer of the Week

God is good to all and compassionate toward all God has made.

6th Week of Easter

Peace is my gift to you.

John 14.27

Jesus promises his disciples peace. He sends them on Easter evening to be instruments of his peace and forgiveness as God has sent him. Be an instrument of peace in your family and office.

Look over the day each evening to see how what the Spirit of Christ risen is teaching you.

Prayer of the Week

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Ascension/ 7th Week of Easter

To them I have revealed your name, so that your love for me may live in them.

John 17.26

Whose kindnesses and love bring this text alive in your life? How can you, too, have Christ’s love live on in your daily tasks?

Put a photo of someone you admire or love in a place where you see it daily. Give thanks to God for this person in your life.

Prayer for the Week

Come, Holy Spirit.

Pentecost

All of us have been given to drink of the same Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12.13

Let taking deep breaths and drinks of water remind you this week to pray, “Come, Holy Spirit. Fill the hearts of us all.” Use prayers from Christians of other cultures or believers in other religions this week. Display Christian art that images God, Jesus, or the Spirit in cultural expressions. View videos such as Eagle Huntress, Whale Rider, The Mission, and Romero set in other cultures to celebrate Pentecost.

Prayer for the Week

Pray one verse of the Pentecost Sequence on each of the eight days of the Octave of Pentecost.

Pentecost Sequence

Come Holy Spirit, come!
And from your celestial home
Shed a ray of light divine.

Come, Father of the poor!
Come, source of all our store!
Come, within our bosoms shine.

You, of comforters the best,
You, the soul’s most welcome guest,
Sweet refreshment here below.

In our labor, rest most sweet;
Grateful coolness in the heat;
Solace in the midst of woe.

O most blessed light divine,
Shine within these hearts of thine,
And our inmost being fill.

Heal our wounds, our strength renew.
On our dryness pour your dew.
Wash the stains of guilt away.

Bend the stubborn heart and will.
Melt the frozen, warm the chill.
Guide the steps that go astray.

On the faithful, who adore
And confess you evermore,
In your sevenfold gift descend.

Give them virtue’s sure reward.
Give them your salvation, Lord.
Give them joys that never end.
Amen. Alleluia.

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