

THE EMPTY TOMB

John 10:1-18; Matthew 28:1-10 // Easter Sunday

This worship service centers on the resurrection of Christ. Our journey through Lent ends as we celebrate the renewal of life that Jesus brings to our world. Here are some materials to get you started creating your own worship service.

MAIN THEME: *The empty tomb*

CHOOSING MUSIC // FOR SINGING

- ✿ **See What a Morning** [Key of D]
Text and Music: Keith Getty and Stewart Townsend
©2003, Thankyou Music
- ✿ **Christ is Alive** [Key of C]
Text: Brian Wren
Music: TRURO
© 1975, rev. 1995, Hope Publishing Company
- ✿ **Goodness Is Stronger Than Evil** [Key of G]
Text: Desmond Tutu
Music: John Bell
Words © 1995 Desmond Tutu (Admin. Doubleday, a div. of Random House, Inc.)
Music: GOODNESS IS STRONGER, John L. Bell
© 1996 Wild Goose Resource Group, Iona Community, Scotland
GIA Publications, Inc., exclusive North American Agent
- ✿ **Glorious Day** [Key of B]
Text and Music: John Wilbur Chapman, Mark Hall, Michael Bleeker
© 2009 Word Music, LLC, My Refuge Music, Sony/ATV Tree Publishing
- ✿ **Christ the Lord is Risen Today** [Key of C]
Text: Charles Wesley
Music: EASTER HYMN
Public Domain

CREATING DRAMA // FOR HEARING

Many churches will speak these familiar words somewhere in worship. Join with Christians around the world and do the same!

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Tell the Easter story in a new way. Consider using Eugene Peterson's translation from The Message.



FINDING ART // FOR SEEING

Consider hanging white and gold banners in your worship space, or doing something creative with fabric of the same color.

Purchase and use a collection of crosses by Lisa Shulist at [eyekons.com] An example is below.



LIVING WORSHIP // FOR DOING

At the heart of Easter is a celebration of new life. Encourage worshipers to plant something outdoors, at their home, to create new life in this season. Let it serve as a reminder of the new life that Christ can bring. And, share it on social media with @animasamford.

Invite families or young people to take flowers from the flowering of the cross to those who may be homebound or in nursing homes.

MAKING SPACE // FOR WORSHIPPING

If you placed an old, wooden cross in your worship space during Lent, leave it up for Easter. Place chicken wire around it, and invite worshipers to bring fresh flowers from their gardens (or the supermarket) and flower the cross before the service. You might delegate someone to wait at the cross and guide worshipers through the placement of the flowers.

WRITING POETRY// FOR PRAYING

Here is an Easter collect that you might use. Or, use it as a model to write your own prayer.

Creator of the universe, you made the world in beauty, and restore all things in glory through the victory of Jesus Christ. We pray that, wherever your image is still disfigured by poverty, sickness, selfishness, war and greed, the new creation in Jesus Christ may appear in justice, love, and peace, to the glory of your name. Amen.

Use this prayer from the Worship Sourcebook as a source for your own extemporaneous prayer.

*God of life,
we rejoice in the resurrection of your Son,
his defeat over death, and his gift of new life. We praise you for the reflections of that new life
in creation . . .
in nations and governments around the world . . .*



*in the ministry of the church universal . . .
in our community . . .
in the sacrifice of those who serve . . .
in our new life in Christ . . .*

*To you as the giver of new life and renewed hope we bring our prayers:
for creation and its care . . .
for the nations of the world . . .
for our nation and its leaders . . .
for this community and those who are in authority . . .
for the church universal as it works on your behalf . . .
for this local church in its ministry . . .
for persons with particular needs . . .
We pray all this in your name, the Lord and giver of life. Amen.*

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SAMPLE WORSHIP SERVICE

Easter Sunday // John 20:1-18; Matthew 28:1-10 // The Empty Tomb

Before the service, place chicken wire around the old wooden cross you put up during Lent. As they are walking in, invite worshipers to bring fresh flowers they brought or some you provided at the entrance, and flower the cross. You might delegate someone to wait at the cross and guide worshipers through the placement of the flowers.

WELCOME

Welcome worshipers with “Alleluia! Christ is risen!” They should respond, “He is risen, indeed!”

SONGS OF PRAISE

Christ the Lord is Risen Today
See What a Morning

EASTER COLLECT

Creator of the universe, you made the world in beauty, and restore all things in glory through the victory of Jesus Christ. We pray that, wherever your image is still disfigured by poverty, sickness, selfishness, war and greed, the new creation in Jesus Christ may appear in justice, love, and peace, to the glory of your name. Amen.

SONG OF FAITH

Glorious Day
Consider interspersing the refrain of this song with testimonies: How has Christ given you life!?”

SCRIPTURE READING

John 20:1-18

MESSAGE

SONG OF CELEBRATION

Goodness Is Stronger Than Evil

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of life, we rejoice in the resurrection of your Son, his defeat over death, and his gift of new life. We praise you for the reflections of that new life.

in creation. . .
in nations and governments around the world. . .
in the ministry of the church universal. . .
in our community. . .
in the sacrifice of those who serve. . .
in our new life in Christ. . .

To you as the giver of new life and renewed hope we bring our prayers:

for creation and its care . . .
for the nations of the world . . .
for our nation and its leaders . . .
for this community and those who are in authority . . .
for the church universal as it works on your behalf . . .
for this local church in its ministry . . .
for persons with particular needs . . .

We pray all this in your name, The Lord and giver of life. Amen.

SONG OF LIFE

Christ is Alive

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION