

## ACTIVITIES TO CELEBRATE LENT AND EASTER

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Use some of these ideas for congregational life, family worship or individual preparation for Easter.

**Create Easter art.** Invite congregational members or families to prepare a series of pictures or symbols about Lent and Easter. Use washable markers to transfer the art to acetate sheets. Use these pictures on an overhead projector to tell about Lent and Easter in worship, or project them on a screen during the singing of Lenten hymns.

**Make Easter Stoles.** Use fabric paint to draw Easter symbols on white cloth stoles. Give the stoles to the worship leader, choir members or greeters for Easter Sunday.

**Hear Easter Joy speeches.** Invite members of the congregation to speak in the service about the meaning of Easter in their life.

**Create and play an Easter game.** Use the ideas from *The Meaning of the Days* to create a mix and match game. Put the events of Lent and Easter in order. Match the days with meanings about the days.

**Make a Holy Week calendar.** Create an attractive colourful calendar noting Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Saturday Vigil, and Easter Sunday. Add suggestions for family activity on each of these days.

**Host a house cleaning.** Follow the Jewish tradition of thorough cleaning before the sundown of the Passover. Before Maundy Thursday invite families to clean their home in preparation for Easter Sunday, or host a communal church cleaning.

**Plan special meals.** Plan and prepare special meals for Holy Week, such as homemade pretzels (shaped like arms folded in prayer), hot cross buns, Easter bread.

**Create an Easter candle.** Make a large decorated candle for Easter Sunday or for family worship. Use wax glue to attach Lenten or Easter symbols such as a cross, lilies, eggs, crown of thorns.

**Plant bulbs.** An amaryllis bulb is a good plant to start at the beginning of Lent. It requires only six or seven weeks to bloom. The growth, change, beauty and strength of a bulb are good reminders of the Lenten and Easter journey.

**Prepare Lenten scripture readings.** Prepare a brochure of forty important scriptures leading up to Easter. Encourage people to read them day-by-day in small groups or individually.

**Make a Lenten Prayer Box.** Compose Lenten prayers and put them into a box decorated with butterflies, the cross, bread and wine, crown of thorns, and butterflies. Pick a prayer at each meal time, then replace it to use again.

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