

## Children, Youth and Adults Things to do Together for Lent and Easter



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Create a walk through Holy Week.

Arrange "stations" in the church sanctuary and designate each with a symbol. Invite people to travel from station to station. At each one, tell a suitable story or read a portion of scripture. Some suggestions for symbols are

- a palm leaf (Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem);
- a bag of coins (Jesus being betrayed by one of his friends);
- a basin of water and towel (Jesus washing the disciples' feet);
- wine and bread (the Last Supper);
- a rooster (Peter denying that he knew Jesus, followed by the rooster crowing);
- a cross (Jesus' suffering and death);
- tomb with a stone in front (Jesus' burial);
- a butterfly (Jesus was raised from the dead and lives forever).

Use a scripture guide.

Divide the scripture readings leading up to Easter (e.g. Matthew 23-28) and invite people to read, pray and think about them. The reading can be done privately in homes or in small groups. Ask people to imagine that they are traveling with Christ.

Create a Holy Week game.

Ask someone in the congregation to draw, randomly, events of Holy Week. The "game" is to put them in proper sequence. The main events are

- Jesus goes to Jerusalem (Lk 19:28-40);
- Jesus cleanses the Temple (Lk 19:45-48);
- Jesus celebrates Passover with disciples (Lk 22:7-20);
- Jesus prays at Mount of Olives/Garden of Gethsemane (Lk 22:39-46);
- Jesus is betrayed by Judas and is arrested (Lk 22:47-54);
- Peter denies Jesus (Lk 22:55-62);
- Jesus is mocked and beaten by soldiers (Lk 22:63-65);
- Jesus is taken before council (Lk 22:66-71);
- Jesus goes before Pilate and Herod (Lk 23:1-11);
- Jesus is taken back to Pilate and Barabbas is released (Lk 23:13-25);
- Jesus is crucified with criminals (Lk 23:32-33);
- Jesus is buried in a tomb belonging to Joseph of Arimathea (Lk 23: 50-53).

Write Holy Week or Easter postcards.

Ask people to imagine they are in Jerusalem the night after Jesus was crucified or on Easter Sunday. Pass out blank cards and ask them to write a postcard or draw a picture of what was happening around them. Invite people to give the postcard to someone for Easter.



Make up a Lent and Easter "Who am I?" quiz and use in Sunday worship.

Place paper and pencil in the pews and invite everyone to guess the answer to a "Who am I?" quiz. To avoid embarrassment, assure everyone that they will not be required to give their answers aloud. Give people time to think and jot down their answers, then simply tell everyone the answer. Here's an example of a "Who am I?"

1. Jesus called me "the rock."
2. I was a fisherman.
3. After Jesus was arrested, I said I didn't know him.

Write poetry.

Invite people to reflect on the meaning of Easter, then write a haiku (Japanese form of poetry). Haiku has 3 lines of 5, 7 and 5 syllables. Here's an example:

Darkness on Friday  
Oh God, where will we find hope?  
Easter Sun will rise

Plant seeds.

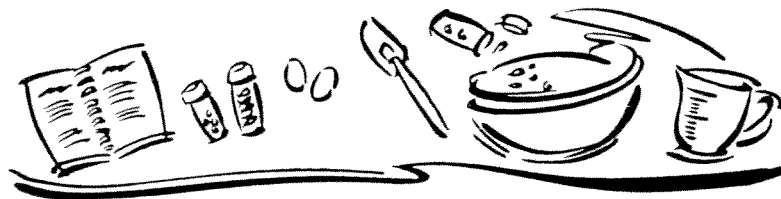
Seeds are a sign of hope. When seedlings are mature, plant them in the church flower beds or give vegetable seedlings to a community garden.

Hold a Service-of-Light Easter vigil on the Saturday evening before Easter. (Outlines for this worship are available from the Church Offices (1-800-619-7301). Ask for Barbara Persaud or Dorothy Henderson.

Make and serve Lenten pretzels.

Pretzels are shaped like arms folded in prayer.

- 1 cup (250 ml) whole wheat flour
- 1 cup (250 ml) white flour



- 1 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp baking soda
- 1/4 cup butter
- 1/2 cup buttermilk
- 1 egg
- Sesame seeds or coarse salt

Mix flour, salt, and baking soda; add butter and blend. Add buttermilk and egg. Mix well. Turn onto floured board and knead until smooth. Roll dough between hands to form long, pencil-thin ropes about 8" (20 cm) long. Place on greased cookie sheets, folding each into praying arms. Sprinkle with seeds or salt. Bake at 400 degrees for about 10 minutes.

#### Create an Easter treasure hunt.

Find a book of Lent and Easter symbols. Copy them and write simple explanations of the symbol on the back of the paper. Hide the symbols around the room. Ask someone who can read to pair with a non-reader. Search for all the symbols. When all the symbols have been discovered, make a bulletin board display.

#### Make Easter eggs.

Using crayons, draw Easter symbols on hard-boiled eggs. Dye the eggs and serve on Easter morning.



#### Everything you've ever wanted to know about Lent.

Prepare short questions and answers and have two people read them as a regular feature each Sunday in Lent. Here are some suggestions for questions: Where did Lent get its name? Why does Lent last forty days? How did the tradition of "giving up something for Lent" start? Do Presbyterians observe this? What is Shrove Tuesday? What is Ash Wednesday? What does Lent mean for us today? (Need more information? Call 1-800-619-7301; ask for Dorothy Henderson or Barbara Persaud.)