

Easter Sunday Service Kit

The resurrection kit — the Easter acclamation, a Matthew 28 responsive reading, and inserts written for the visitors who only come today.

When to use it: Easter Sunday and the Sundays of Eastertide.

Order of service

1. Prelude / gathering music
2. Call to worship (Scripture below)
3. Opening hymn
4. Invocation
5. Prayer of confession and assurance of pardon
6. Responsive reading
7. Scripture reading
8. Sermon
9. Response — communion, offering, or prayer
10. Closing hymn
11. Benediction

Hymn suggestions (public domain)

- Christ the Lord Is Risen Today
- Thine Be the Glory
- Crown Him with Many Crowns

Suggested preaching text

Matthew 28:1-10, John 20:1-18, or 1 Corinthians 15:1-26.

Calls to worship

Read one aloud to open the service. Short is better than long — the point is to turn the room toward God before anything else is said.

He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

Matthew 28:6 (KJV)

But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

1 Corinthians 15:20 (KJV)

This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalms 118:24 (KJV)

Invocation

Risen Lord, the grave could not hold thee and death has lost its sting. Meet us this morning as thou didst meet Mary in the garden — by name, and alive. Amen.

Prayer of confession

Father, we confess that we live as though the tomb were still occupied — anxious, joyless, afraid of death. Forgive our unbelief and raise our hearts with thy Son. Amen.

Assurance of pardon

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

1 Peter 1:3 (KJV)

Responsive reading

He Is Risen

Leader reads the plain lines; the congregation reads the lines in bold. Print this page in the bulletin exactly as it appears here.

Leader: Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.

Matthew 28:5 (KJV)

People: **He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.**

Matthew 28:6 (KJV)

Leader: But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

1 Corinthians 15:20 (KJV)

People: **O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?**

1 Corinthians 15:55 (KJV)

All: **But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

1 Corinthians 15:57 (KJV)

Offering sentence

And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.

2 Corinthians 9:8 (KJV)

Benediction

Speak the blessing over the congregation rather than praying it — the biblical pattern is a word given to the people, not a request made on their behalf.

Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

Jude 1:24-25 (KJV)

Bulletin inserts — cut along the dashed lines

Photocopy this page, cut on the dashed borders, and slip one into every bulletin or visitor pack. Free to reproduce for church use.

BULLETIN INSERT 1 · BIBLE SUNDAYS

If today is your one Sunday this year

He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

Matthew 28:6 (KJV)

Christianity does not rest on a feeling or a tradition. It rests on a claim about a Sunday morning outside Jerusalem: the tomb was empty and hundreds said they saw him. Read the Gospel of John this week and decide about it for yourself.

BULLETIN INSERT 2 · BIBLE SUNDAYS

A living hope

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

1 Peter 1:3 (KJV)

Peter denied Jesus three times and still calls his hope lively. Resurrection is not only about the end of your life; it is about what God can do with the parts of yours you thought were finished.

Service planning notes

Fill this in on the Thursday before and hand a copy to the musicians, the reader, and the sound desk.

Preacher

Sermon title and text

Reader / liturgist

Hymns

Communion / ordinance

Announcements

Notes

More free KJV resources for Sunday at biblesundays.com/sunday — sermon series plans, printables, hymn texts, and free Bible widgets for your church website.