

Live-streamed services:

Because all of us are at home without the normal distractions of work, school and other social obligations, we should make every effort to view as many of the live-streamed services as possible, beginning with Liturgy on Lazarus Saturday, April 11th at 10AM and concluding with Agape Vespers on Sunday, April 19th at noon. You can follow all the services of Holy Week using your Holy Week book – most of us have personal copies that we've purchased over the years, or by going to the AGES Initiative website.

Our worship is very physical, whether in Church or at home. During Holy Week icons need to be front and center in your home. An icon of Christ should be on your kitchen table with some flowers around it to remind you that this is Holy Week. A candle or oil lamp should be nearby and kept lit. If you have a censer, you should light it and burn incense, especially before live-streamed services begin. During a live-streamed Liturgy or other services you should do at home what you would do in Church. Don't just merely watch the Liturgy as you might a football game or a movie – participate by singing along with the chanter, standing up at the Entrance with the Gospel Book and when the Gospel is read, as well as at the Great Entrance when the gifts of bread and wine are carried in procession; standing and saying the Creed and the Lord's Prayer aloud together. Pray that the time when we can all be together again comes soon!

We must remain rooted in the Scriptures throughout Holy Week. Read the Scripture readings for each day of Holy Week, beginning on Lazarus Saturday. If you have a Holy Week book, look through the Scripture readings of each service in advance. If you don't have a Holy Week book, here's a brief list of just a few of the Scripture readings during Holy Week that you could read each day individually or as a family:

The Saturday of Lazarus: John 11:1-45

Palm Sunday: Philippians 4:4-9; Matthew 21:1-17

The 1st Bridegroom Service (Sunday night): Matthew 21:12-17

The 2nd Bridegroom Service (Monday night): Matthew 22:34-40

The 3rd Bridegroom Service (Tuesday night): John 12:44-50

The Anointing Service (Wednesday): James 5:13-16; Mark 6:7-13

Great and Holy Thursday: Matthew 26:1 - 27:46

Great and Holy Friday: Mark 15:1-47

Great and Holy Saturday: Luke 23:50 - 24:12

Pascha: John 20:1-31

Do we actually know where the Lord Jesus was crucified, buried and rose from the dead? Yes, we do! Here are several short videos from Drive thru History: the Gospels about the Crucifixion of Jesus, His Resurrection, and Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem, the amazing Church

that was built over both the hill of Golgotha where He was crucified and the sacred Tomb from which He rose from the dead:

The Crucifixion of the Lord Jesus <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CArGXSfjd4A>

Do we know where Jesus was crucified? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vfgPzImtTxA>

The Risen Lord Jesus appears to the women at the Tomb
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e7m9ZiYnj_c&t=51s

This year, for the first time in nearly 700 years – since 1349, when the world was ravaged by the Black Death (Bubonic Plague) – the Church of the Holy Sepulcher will be closed to the public for worship during Holy Week and Pascha. Links to several short videos of celebrations of Holy Week and Pascha from around the world:

Greek Orthodox Easter from Nafplion, Greece with Rick Steves

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pZNM4X4lmD4&list=PLY5cPkFWwO-oJMka3M4m90BsiQL3Npo2&index=4&t=53s>

Orthodox Christians in Ghana, Africa singing Christ is Risen!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JYyfN89yuWc>

A flash mob in Beirut, Lebanon sings Christ is Risen! in Arabic and Greek:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=16&v=zHCTRWbMgBo&feature=emb_logo

Here are links just to a couple of short children's videos that tell the story of Easter:

The Beginners Bible: The Easter Story https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bkNTU_Vv5Ew

Superbook, Episode 11: He is Risen! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3F0rt2AiqJY>

There are many other cartoon Bible stories for small children that can be found online simply by searching with Google.

Activities to bring Holy Week and Pascha into your home:

1. Decorate the front door of your home or other places in and around your house with old palm crosses, flowers, Easter lilies and signs expressing the joy of Pascha.
2. Hard boil and dye red Easter eggs (red for the blood of Christ)
<https://www.marthastewart.com/968094/red-easter-eggs-bread>
3. Learn to make Prosforo – the Bread of Offering that we make for each Liturgy for Communion. Although you may not have a seal at home to make the actual Eucharistic bread we use during Liturgy, it could still be made and then eaten as antidoron after viewing a live-streamed celebration of the Liturgy on Lazarus Saturday, Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday morning, Holy Saturday morning and Saturday night after Resurrection Services.

Here is a link to a cute video for children (and adults) about learning how to make prosforo:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gsfjpnzz-2Q>

Here's a more detailed website: <http://prosphora.org/>

4. Learn to make an Easter sweet bread called Tsoureki in Greek.

Here are a couple of places online that might be helpful to you:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ZGtryOawJA>

<https://www.mygreekdish.com/recipe/tsoureki-recipe-traditional-greek-easter-bread/>

5. For more ideas, please visit the website: www.tending-the-garden.com

Additional Resources:

<http://www.orthodoxyouth.net/youthworkers/holy-week-resources>

<https://www.ocamp.org/covid-19-resources.html>

<https://www.y2am.org/athome>

https://blogs.ancientfaith.com/raisingsaints/logistics-planning-holy-week-and-pascha-at-home/?fbclid=IwAR2IjCWOBPQ4pMwbwuNDIxKY0BqH3BLC-HSh9ua_HwcABImrMHoDMoPJNSs