

CHRIST
IS RISEN!

EASTER

DEVOTIONAL

Galatians 5:22-24 tells us, *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.”*

Easter is a favorite holiday for families to gather together to celebrate and worship. Often, we attend packed out church services and eat meals together huddled around tables filled with extended family and friends, but Easter 2020 has arrived with challenges. This Easter will look very different than most we have experienced. But it is important to remember that despite the new reality we are experiencing, God still reigns and the gospel message still brings us hope. The good news of Easter is the resurrection of Jesus! We have life because of the work that Jesus accomplished for us on the cross. Jesus in his death and resurrection brought us forgiveness and reconciled us with God. When we accept Jesus as Lord, we embrace a Savior that knows what it means to suffer and who walks with us through our own suffering. In Jesus, we are also blessed with the promise of eternal life and the gift of the Holy Spirit, to transform us and produce fruit in our lives. God’s kingdom is bigger than the four walls of our church buildings. A virus may have limited our ability to gather together in person, but God’s Church is not limited to a physical structure. We are God’s Church, each one of us, empowered by the Spirit and sent to enact God’s grace in this world.

Prayer: *Lord Jesus, thank you for your gift of grace for us. May your Spirit work powerfully to renew our hearts and transform our world. Thank you for the joy and hope we have in you. Amen.*

EASTER

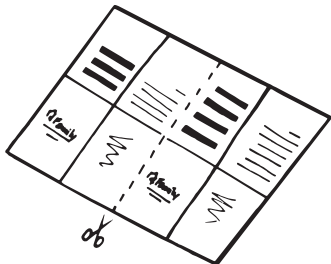
TABLE CARDS

Whether you gather virtually or in-person this Easter, we hope these cards will help you create an atmosphere of praise. Each card includes a Bible verse and question to inspire reflection and conversation. Use them before, during, or after your Easter meal to help you identify the Holy Spirit at work in your life and God's world.

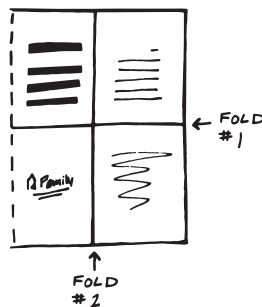
Instructions and Tips:

- Print these cards (one-sided). Note: If your printer cuts off part of the page, choose "Print to Fit" in your printer options.
- You will find two cards on each page. Cut them apart along the dotted line and then fold each side twice to create two mini-cards.
- Place a card at each setting around your holiday dinner table.
- Close your time of reflection with the enclosed devotional reading.

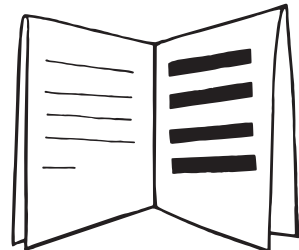
Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



Christ
is Risen

*I have said these things to
you, that in me you may
have peace. In the world
you will have tribulation.
But take heart; I have
overcome the world."*

John 16:33

**How is God
giving you
his peace?**



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Christ
is Risen

*If possible, so far as it
depends on you, live
peaceably with all.*

Romans 12:18

**How are you
enacting
God's peace?**



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*Christ
is Risen*

*A new commandment I give
to you, that you love one
another: just as I have
loved you, you also are to
love one another.*

John 13:34

**How have
you been a
part of
extending
God's love?**



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*Christ
is Risen*

*For you make him most
blessed forever; you make
him glad with the joy of
your presence.*

Psalms 21:6

**Who do you
know who
exhibits
God's joy?**



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Christ
is Risen

*You make known to me the
path of life; in your
presence there is fullness
of joy; at your right hand
are pleasures forevermore.*

Psalms 16:11



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**What
experiences
in life have
brought you
joy?**

Christ
is Risen

*The pastures of the
wilderness overflow, the
hills gird themselves with
joy, the meadows clothe
themselves with flocks, the
valleys deck themselves
with grain, they shout and
sing together for joy.*

Psalms 65:12-13



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**Where have
you
experienced
God's joy?**

Christ
is Risen

*And you shall love the Lord
your God with all your heart
and with all your soul and
with all your mind and with
all your strength.*

Mark 12:30



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**How have
you seen
God's love in
action?**

Christ
is Risen

*For God so loved the world,
that he gave his only Son,
that whoever believes in
him should not perish but
have eternal life.*

John 3:16



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**How have you
experienced
God's love?**

Christ
is Risen

*Blessed are the
peacemakers, for they shall
be called sons of God.*

Matthew 5:9

**How have
you
experienced
God's peace?**



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Christ
is Risen

*The Lord is my shepherd; I
shall not want. He makes
me lie down in green
pastures. He leads me
beside still waters.*

Psalms 23:1-2

**In what
places have
you felt God's
peace?**



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*But if we hope for what we
do not see, we wait for it
with patience.*
Romans 8:25

**How have
you seen God
reward your
patience?**

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*As an example of suffering
and patience, brothers,
take the prophets who
spoke in the name of the
Lord.*
James 5:10

**Who in your
life has
modeled
patience?**



Christ
is Risen

*She opens her mouth with
wisdom, and the teaching
of kindness is on her
tongue.*

Proverbs 31:26

**What words
of kindness
have had an
impact on
your life?**



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Christ
is Risen

*But the fruit of the Spirit is
love, joy, peace, patience,
kindness, goodness,
faithfulness, gentleness,
self-control; against such
things there is no law.*

Galatians 5:22-23

**How have
you
experienced
kindness in
unexpected
ways?**



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Christ
is Risen

*He has told you, O man,
what is good; and what
does the Lord require of
you but to do justice, and
to love kindness, and to
walk humbly with your God?*

Micah 6:8



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**How have
you helped
kindness
ripple
through your
community?**

Christ
is Risen

*Oh, taste and see that the
Lord is good! Blessed is the
man who takes refuge in
him!*

Psalms 34:8



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**How has God
reminded
you of his
goodness?**

Christ
is Risen

*Your steadfast love, O Lord,
extends to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the
clouds.*

Psalms 36:5

**How have
you
experienced
God's
faithfulness?**



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Christ
is Risen

*But as for you, O man of
God, flee these things.
Pursue righteousness,
godliness, faith, love,
steadfastness, gentleness.*

1 Timothy 6:11

**How have
you been
blessed by
the
gentleness of
others?**



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**How have
you
experienced
blessing
from
practicing
self-control?**

*For God gave us a spirit
not of fear but of power
and love and self-control.*
2 Timothy 1:7

*I am the vine; you are the
branches. Whoever abides
in me and I in him, he it is
that bears much fruit, for
apart from me you can do
nothing.*

John 15:5

**What fruit of
the Spirit is
God
cultivating in
your life?**