

## The Power of Love

**IN THE POWER OF LOVE, I CELEBRATE MY ABILITY TO GIVE LOVE, RECEIVE LOVE AND BE LOVE.**

**OUR EASTER STORY: RISING & RAISING OUR CONSCIOUSNESS:** Often Jesus is experienced as a model for how we ourselves can be resurrected from our own crucifixion experiences. The Easter story reminds us that no matter what we are going through, those experiences do not have the final word in our destiny. We can look beyond appearances and recognize that there is a divine plan unfolding. We, too, rise from the ashes and raise our consciousness on our way into a higher frequency.



**I AM Light, My soul Inside is Light.  
I AM Divinity Defined.  
I AM the God on the Inside.  
I AM Light - India Arie**

In the Easter story, Jesus gives us clues on how to access this eternal dimension and spiritualize all aspects of our life. .

### First: Forgive: Resurrection follows forgiveness

Any resurrection is built on the consciousness of forgiveness. Only then can we see the gift in the seeming betrayals in life. When people or situations betray the pictures that we have in our mind of how things should be, that is when we must invoke the consciousness of forgiveness.

So we hear Jesus saying “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do” and examine its meaning. Perhaps surface mind is saying “Please, they knew exactly what they were doing.” Now I’m going to try to forgive them anyway because it’s the right thing to do. However, I’m not going to ever believe they didn’t know what they were doing (whoever *they* might be).

We can see the Jesus statement of “forgive them for they know not what they do” from a different perspective

### Then ARISE!

The entire universe is asking that we be our true selves. To do so, we must go within to that which is real, indestructible, has never been born, and can never die. Jesus talked about that when he said “call no one on earth your father.” There is but one Presence, and that Presence is within you. When our attention is on it, it begins to express as our life—our real life. When we look at our world, we see the seeming betrayals. They are the modern-day crucifixion experiences—man’s inhumanity to man, wars and rumors of war, economic breakdowns, and the challenges we face across the planet. At times we may think it’s beyond hope and it will never get better. However, it was for this purpose we were born. God transforms our world a little at a time by means of us. God needs us to shine God’s light to make this world a better place. When we let our light shine, we will rise above any crucifixion experience and the entire world will celebrate the Easter of our hearts and we will rise.

Easter is not merely the celebration of the life of Jesus. He reminds us that we are capable of doing even greater things than he did. We love and celebrate the master teacher by practicing his principles, living his teachings, and following his example. When we do, our life shines and glorifies the power, the presence, and the love of God. All of us emanate from that loving presence. When that is our self-concept, we will be able to say as Jesus did, “When you see me, you see the presence that sent me,” and you will experience Easter every day of your life. <https://www.unity.org/article/easter-your-life>

*Easter is the celebration of Life.*

*“Its inner meaning and spiritual significance is the awakening and raising to spiritual consciousness of the I AM in mankind, which has been dead in trespass and error and buried in the tomb of materiality.”*

*– Charles Fillmore, “Keep a True Lent”*

**I came that they might have life and have it more abundantly - Jesus**





*Spring is a time of renewal, new growth, and infinite possibilities! As a result of your Spring is also a time of clearing out what is no longer useful and letting go of what no longer serves. Limiting, stagnant, doubting thoughts only block our good while positive, hopeful, faith-filled thoughts are like seeds planted in fertile soil. There is much to gain from the wisdom of nature.*

### Easter as a rite of spring

Finding personal ways to celebrate the subtle themes of Easter can take rituals that have been mere superstitions and give them lasting meaning.

Eostre Easter has deep roots in the mythic past. Long before it was imported into the Christian tradition, the Spring festival honored the goddess Eostre or Eastre. The name is pronounced Easter. She was the ancient Anglo Saxon goddess of the dawn and the Vernal Equinox. Her name venerates the sun rising in the east. Easter Sunday sunrise services continue the sun-worship aspect of the holiday. The equinox is when the days begin growing into the long sunlight that will be Summer. This increase of daylight makes crops possible, hence the theme of fertility.

The annual event in honor of Eostre celebrated new life and renewal. The superstition about wearing new clothes came later, but echoed the commemoration of the new. Eastre is in the lineage of Ishtar, the Babylonian goddess of love and fertility. Other names for this archetype include Inanna, Aphrodite, Diana, Isis, Venus, Astarte, Demeter, Esther, and Freya. Freya is specifically honored on Good Friday, the day named for her.

The Easter Bunny is a continuation of the reverence shown during the spring rites to the rabbit as a symbol of abundance. The honoring of such emblems of fertility extended to eggs. The egg serves as a representation of new life. It stands for the renewing power of nature and, by extension, agriculture. The egg can also symbolize regeneration in a spiritual or psychological sense. The ritual of coloring Easter eggs stems from the tradition of painting eggs in bright colors to represent the sunlight of spring.

This might also be a good time to find the inner Easter Bunny. Both rabbits and eggs suggest the possibility of renewal. We might consider re-connecting with our natural fertility. The long inner winter we have just come through might not have been the most creative season. We are naturally creative creatures. There are occasions when embracing the idea of abundance is fitting and useful. A personal ritual for this month could be deciding what crops we want to develop in our lives so that we have a flourishing summer ahead.

A personal sunrise service might be adding morning exercise to our schedules. It is amazing how beneficial it is to absorb the energizing light of the sun on a regular basis. The simplest treatment for mild depression is a twenty minute walk every morning. Appreciating the gift of energy in general, and using it thoughtfully, is a meditation in its own right.

Putting on new clothing could represent the possibility of developing a new aspect of identity or finding a fresh sense purpose. Forever clinging to old ways of seeing ourselves can end up feeling like life is pooping on us, and few appreciate adornments bestowed by birds. Birds as symbols, might suggest that our relationship with the transcendent is less than flourishing. This is about accepting change. There are times to let go of the familiar and enter a new phase of the journey. This can involve accepting a new self-image. Spring might well be the appropriate moment to don new clothes, in a figurative sense, and claim an underused side of ourselves. <https://folkstory.com/articles/spring.html>



# Easter Wordsearch!

K N Y S U A Y L J A T A S T K  
E A I P C U M Z V J N D G O W  
Q B F L O W E R S G P S O B E  
B E E C U W W E E K T V Z G L  
F O H B K H U L S H W H R J J  
Z L Y U K S S X G U W M T E E  
H C W M Q F N I R U N B Z S C  
T E V O L Q L G E N K R F U C  
W N K P Y T Y D B R L P I S E  
O W Y F S B Z K I S E H G S E  
R D G I E C E S R Q O T S P E  
G B R H A P P Y T A M O S G U  
T H S U O Y O J H O R Q G A C  
C Z N M D J C R C C N S B N E  
A L F T T E J F T O M E P T B

ANGELS

CHRIST LIGHT

CROSS

EASTER

EGGS

FLOWERS

GROWTH

HAPPY

JESUS

JOYOUS

LOVE

REBIRTH

STONE

SUNRISE



Choose from the following words to fill-in-the-blanks.

Angels Cross Eggs Flowers Happy Joyous Love Stone Sunrise

1. Easter is a \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ time!  
5 1 7 3 4
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ reminds us that we can “X” out all that is  
11  
not good and kind in our lives.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ represents a barrier that is keeping our  
9  
true Christ Spirit from rising to its full potential.
4. Our spiritual understanding of God is symbolized by  
\_\_\_\_\_ .  
2
5. The people of Egypt and Persia colored \_\_\_\_\_ and gave  
8  
them as gifts to their friends to celebrate the return of spring.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ that grow from bulbs and bloom in the  
10  
spring symbolize growth.
7. No matter how dark we think things may be, the  
\_\_\_\_\_ tells us that Christ is always with us -  
6  
ready to light our way.
8. Jesus will always \_\_\_\_\_ me!

Fill in the letters, from the numbered blanks, for a special message!

\_\_\_\_\_!  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

# Symbols of Easter



## Easter Bunny

Meaning: The emblem of Easter goddess. In ancient times, the rabbit was the emblem of Eostre, the goddess of spring. The word Easter is said to come from the name Eostre, meaning spring. In time Easter became the English name for the day set aside to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

*John 14:19 - Because I live, ye shall live also.*

## Colored Eggs

Meaning: New life. In ancient days the people of Egypt and Persia colored eggs and gave them as gifts to their friends to celebrate the return of spring. To them the egg was a symbol of new life and immortality.

*Roams 6:4 – Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in the newness of life.*

## Daffodil

Meaning: Growth. How beautiful are the daffodils and other flowers that grow from bulbs and bloom in the spring. The brown bulb from which the daffodil grows is buried in the ground and for a time it appears lifeless. But it is waiting for the right time to begin its growth. The daffodil, and the bulb from which it grows, symbolize the law of growth in action.

*Jer. 12:12 – Thou hast planted them, yea, they have taken root; they grow, yea, they bring forth fruit.*

## Green Leaves

Meaning: Growth and renewal. In the spring, trees that have seemed barren and lifeless all winter send forth new leaves, reminding us that God-life was present in the trees all the time. So the green leaves represent growth and renewal, the quiet assurance of the ever presence of God-life.

*Acts 3:19 – There...come seasons of refreshing from the presence of the Lord.*

## The Lily

Meaning: Purity. Lilies are used to decorate our homes and churches at Easter. The lily symbolizes purity, reminding us that pure, good thoughts best express our Christ nature.

*Matthew 5:8 – Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God.*

### The Lamb

Meaning: Child of God. The Shepard tends to the sheep just as Spirit tends to our soul. When we are willing to follow the wisdom of Spirit, we receive all the gifts God has in store for us.

*John 1:29 – Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.*

### The Stone

Meaning: A Barrier. What are the barriers that we create in our lives that keep our Christ Spirit from rising to its full potential? When we "roll them away" our Christ light fully expresses itself.

*Matthew 28:2 – And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for the angel of the Lord, descended from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it.*

### The Cross

Meaning: Crossing Out. The cross reminds us that we can cross out all that is not good and kind; that we can heal and have victory over all things.

*Matthew 16:24 – If any man would come after me, let him...take up his cross and follow me.*

### The Number 3

Meaning: Steps in Spiritual Growth. We think of the number three with Easter because our Lord arose on the third day. The three days represent the steps in spiritual growth needed for complete oneness with God. First, we need to be willing to change for the better; second, we need to open our minds to God's good plan for us; third, we need to accept God's good plan and put it into action.

*Luke 24:46 – It is written, that the Christ should rise again from the dead on the third day.*

### The Angel

Meaning: Spiritual Thoughts. Those who found the empty tomb on the first Easter morning had a vision of angels and learned of the glorious news of Jesus Christ's triumph over death. Angels represent our spiritual thought and our understanding of God.

*Luke 24:22-23 – Certain women...came. Saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive.*

### The Sunrise

Meaning: Sign of light or the Christ Spirit within. No matter how dark the night becomes the sun always rises. This tells us that even through our darkest times the Christ is always with us ready to rise again when we are ready.

*Isaiah 60:1 – Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.*

