

Easter Program for Small Churches

About 25 minutes · order of service, parts, rehearsal plan, family note

Min.	Part	Who
1	Welcome: poem 1 "Welcome"	a preschooler
3	Hymn: Christ the Lord Is Risen Today	everyone
1	Poems: 2 "Hosanna!", 3 "Love One Another"	two kids
3	Reading: Jesus dies on the cross, Luke 23:33–49 (KJV)	reader
2	Poem 4 "Christ Died for Us", then The Old Rugged Cross (first verse)	one kid, then everyone
7	The play: He Is Risen, an Easter play for kids (Matthew 21–28). It ends with everyone saying Matthew 28:6.	narrator + cast
3	Hymn: Low in the Grave He Lay	everyone
2	Poems: 5 "The Stone Rolled Away", 6 "With Fear and Great Joy", 7 "Thomas"	three kids
1	Poem 8 "The Third Day", then every child says Luke 24:34 together: "The Lord is risen indeed."	all the kids
2	Closing: the gospel in two minutes (1 Corinthians 15:3–4; Acts 2:38) and prayer	pastor

The reading, poems and play are free at vbshq.com: The Easter Story in the Bible, Resurrection Sunday Poems, and He Is Risen: Easter Play for Kids. In the program, the play's closing song is left out, since the church sings Low in the Grave He Lay right after it.



Rehearsal plan

3 weeks out: give out parts and poems, and send the family note home.

2 weeks out: first rehearsal, 20 minutes after Sunday school. Walk the play from spot to spot and sing the three hymns once.

1 week out: second rehearsal in costume. Run the whole program once with the reader.

Program day: arrive 30 minutes early. Set the table, the cross, the stone and a row of chairs for the cast.

Parts

Narrator _____ Reader _____ Angel _____
Centurion _____ Joseph _____ Mary Magdalene _____
The other Mary _____ Keepers _____
Crowd _____ Disciples _____
Poems 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____ 7 _____ 8 _____
Song leader _____ Piano or guitar _____ Props helper _____

Note for families (cut and send home)

Our children's Easter program is on _____ at _____.

Your child's part: _____

Costume: a bathrobe and towel, or a long white robe for the angel. Please keep costumes modest and ankle-length.

Please practice the poem or line at home a few times each week. Thank you!