



Easter: a two-minute film teachers' notes

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Watch the film here: <https://youtu.be/zU5ukAmPYv4>

Transcript

NARRATOR: Easter is the most important Christian festival. At Westminster Abbey we remember Easter every day, by receiving Holy Communion which commemorates the Last Supper, and celebrates Jesus' death and resurrection.

And at the Abbey, the Last Supper plays out in a beautiful mosaic hung above the High Altar, right where Holy Communion takes place.

So, when we take the bread and wine; the body and blood of Christ, we look up and see the scene before us; Jesus holding bread and wine, surrounded by His disciples, including the betrayer, Judas.

Easter is all around at the Abbey because it is central to everything Christians believe about Jesus. Above the mosaic, almost like a comic book, you'll see scenes from the Gospels, some of which show what happened at Easter.

Here you can see what happened on Good Friday. And then on Easter Sunday, the joy of His resurrection. Using artwork to illustrate stories from the Bible is common in Christian worship.

Stained glass windows bring these scenes to life in glorious colour. This window shows Ascension Day, which comes 40 days after Easter Sunday. This is the moment Jesus ascended to Heaven after the resurrection. Can you spot him? Look, all you see are His feet.

And this window shows the events of Pentecost, 10 days later, when God gave His Holy Spirit to the disciples and Mary when they were praying together. The dove and tongues of fire represent the Holy Spirit. Pentecost is the last day of Eastertide, and the beginning of the spread of Christianity worldwide. It's a joyful day which concludes our annual celebration of Easter.

Christian artwork is full of meaning; nothing in a church is ever just 'because'. So as Christians visit Westminster Abbey; attending services, receiving Holy Communion, they are surrounded by reminders of Christ's life, death and resurrection. Stained glass windows, friezes, mosaics; even the shape of the building itself...

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