

***Austrō** Runic: 𐌱𐌰𐌶𐌵𐌹𐌸𐌰 Pronunciation: /'ɑʊs.trō:/

proper noun · feminine · ōn-stem

Meanings

1. Easter, festival celebrated at the spring equinox
2. Easter, goddess of spring

Etymology

From Proto-Indo-European **h₂ews-(s)-t-reh₂-n-*, ultimately from **h₂ews-*, and closely related to **austrq¹* and **austraz*. EWA analyzes the **t* as inherited rather than as an excrescent consonant from PIE **sr* > Proto-Germanic **str*, connecting **Austrō* directly with the **h₂ews-(s)-to-* formation (Lühr 2017: s.v. *ôst(a)ra*; Wodtko et al. 2008: 359). The ultimate root also formed the PIE word for ‘dawn’ and the Dawn Goddess, **h₂éws-ōs ~ *h₂us(-s)-és*; this provides a plausible semantic background for Bede’s *Ēostre*, though her status as an inherited Germanic dawn goddess cannot be established from the linguistic evidence alone.

Declension

Case	Singular	Plural
Nom.	Austrō	—
Acc.	Austrōnu	—
Gen.	Austrōniz	—
Dat.	Austrōni	—
Inst.	Austrōnē	—
Voc.	Austrō	—

Descendants

* Austrā (Proto-West Germanic)
āsteron (Old Frisian)
* Austrā (Proto-West Germanic)
ōstara (Old Dutch)
ôosteren (Middle Dutch)
* Austrā (Proto-West Germanic)
ēastre, ēastrun, ēastron, ēastru, ēoster, ēster, ēastor, ēastro (Old English)
Eestour, Ester, Yestre (Middle English)
Easter (English)
Easter (Scots)
* Austrā (Proto-West Germanic)
ōstra, ōstara, *Ôstra, *Ōstara, *Ōstora, *Aostar, *Aostr- (Old High German)
ōstre, ōstere, ōster (Middle High German)
Uustere (Central Franconian)
Ostern (German)
Ouschteren (Luxembourgish)
* Austrā (Proto-West Germanic)
*ōstara, *ōstarūn (Old Saxon)
ōsteren, ôstern (Middle Low German)
Oostern (Low German)
Oostren (Plautdietsch)

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Related Words

Words mentioned in this entry

***austrą**¹ noun ***austraz** adjective

Entries that mention this word

***austrōmēnōps** noun