

A close-up photograph of several vibrant pink lilies in full bloom, with their bright orange stamens clearly visible. The lilies are set against a background of lush green leaves and some out-of-focus blue flowers. The overall scene is bright and colorful, suggesting a spring garden.

Eastertide in a Time of Quarantine

Praying

Worshipping

Connecting

**Church of the
Holy Comforter
Montgomery, AL**

What we have to offer

Easter tide is a season of profound change and movement: out of despair into hope, out of the upper room where we hide in fear, and into the streets to proclaim with joy and awe, the good news of Jesus Christ, and he crucified and risen. This is also the season when we remember that the promise of the Resurrection wasn't that any moment now, things would go back to what they'd been like before. In his second letter to the Corinthians, Paul describes what this season is about. As we follow the Risen Christ with increasing faith, "there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" (2 Cor 5:17).

The team that gathered to provide resources for Holy Week has grown to include Ann Montgomery and Jeri Tippit. Together, we will work to provide our beloved parish family with the resources we hope allow you to continue to strengthen your faith, deepen your sense of hope, and give you a clearer sense of what the Risen Christ calls us to, both individually, and as a faith community. The call Christ extends to us is always for this particular time and place. As the world quite literally groans in suffering and loss, as the Covid-19 pandemic continues to change the landscape of our lives, may we proclaim boldly. The Lord is risen, He is risen indeed. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Here's what we will do our best to offer each week:

1. This booklet that's published weekly. It includes this Sunday's Gospel reading and Psalm from the Revised Common Lectionary, links to enriching resources, and activities that invite us to deeper prayer and reflection.
2. Links to live-streamed worship services for the special liturgies of the week. You'll find those in our newsletter and on our Facebook page. We will also include links you can turn to during the week for refreshment and prayer.
3. A short video each Sunday that will be posted on our Facebook page and website. Thank you to Randy Foster, Michael and Roy Paul, Terri Via, Missy Via, Lee Wilkins, Ann Montgomery, Jeri Tippit, and Randy Woodland, for the energy, creativity and deep reverence they brought.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!!!

Rosa+

Day of the Ascension

The Readings

The Collect

Almighty God, whose blessed Son our Savior Jesus Christ ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things: Mercifully give us faith to perceive that, according to his promise, he abides with his Church on earth, even to the end of the ages; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

Psalm 47

- 1 Clap your hands, all you peoples; *
shout to God with a cry of joy.
- 2 For the LORD Most High is to be feared; *
he is the great King over all the earth.
- 3 He subdues the peoples under us, *
and the nations under our feet.
- 4 He chooses our inheritance for us, *
the pride of Jacob whom he loves.
- 5 God has gone up with a shout, *
the LORD with the sound of the ram's-horn.
- 6 Sing praises to God, sing praises; *
sing praises to our King, sing praises.
- 7 For God is King of all the earth; *
sing praises with all your skill.
- 8 God reigns over the nations; *
God sits upon his holy throne.
- 9 The nobles of the peoples have gathered together *
with the people of the God of Abraham.
- 10 The rulers of the earth belong to God, *
and he is highly exalted.

The Gospel

Luke 24:44-53

Jesus said to his disciples, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you-- that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed



them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.



Links

Every year, we are reminded that the days and weeks following the events of Holy Week left Jesus' friends fearing for their lives, extraordinarily confused about the meaning of resurrection, and seeking the security of locked doors and incontrovertible proof. Each year, we hear Jesus speak to the fear, distrust and grief with the kind of clarity and kindness that helps a shattered community begin to heal. What the post-resurrection visits from Jesus mean may be clearer if you read all the readings appointed for this Sunday in the Revised Common Lectionary. Click [here](#) to go to the page that includes all the readings and collect for the day.

Click [here](#) for Washington National Cathedral's Sunday Holy Eucharist online, May 24 at 10:15 AM (cdt),

For Rosa's Sunday morning video, visit our Facebook page [here](#). Also available on our website, [here](#).

For daily meditations from Forward Day by Day, [click here](#). Or to listen to a prayer, [here](#).



Activity for the Week

Make Pentecost Fire (or Wind) Streamers
for ZOOM Gathering May 31

Instructions

You will need

- wooden dowels, bamboo, sticks from outside or PENCILS
- several long pieces of colored ribbon, i.e. red, gold or orange for flames; blue or white for wind
- a short piece of ribbon to wrap around top of stick
- craft glue (Elmer's) or hot glue or tape

Glue or tape long pieces of ribbon to the ends of the sticks. Use shorter pieces of ribbon to wrap around top of stick to cover ends and make tidy.

Take sticks outside to wave in wind or use a fan to blow ribbons in the wind. SAVE for Pentecost Sunday ZOOM Worship.

**REMEMBER TO WEAR RED on the ZOOM Gathering
Sunday, May 31st**

Happy Easter, dear ones—you are loved!