



**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 Covirus-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+

Second Sunday in Easter

The Readings

Psalm 16

1 Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; *
I have said to the Lord, "You are my Lord,
my good above all other."
2 All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, *
upon those who are noble among the people.
3 But those who run after other gods *
shall have their troubles multiplied.
4 Their libations of blood I will not offer, *
nor take the names of their gods upon my lips.
5 O Lord, you are my portion and my cup; *
it is you who uphold my lot.
6 My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; *
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.
7 I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel; *
my heart teaches me, night after night.
8 I have set the Lord always before me; *
because he is at my right hand I shall not fall.
9 My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; *
my body also shall rest in hope.
10 For you will not abandon me to the grave, *
nor let your holy one see the Pit.
11 You will show me the path of life; *
in your presence there is fullness of joy,
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to

them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood



among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.



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.

Resurrection is in part about passage--making. The prayer over the water at Baptism says in part, "*We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*" Click [here](#) for a lovely song that asks Christ to guide us into a life lived in the light of Resurrection.



Activities

Your space for prayer at home:

I wonder if you have created a small space in your home where you gather yourself, either alone or with your family, for prayer and reflection. If so, can you make some changes to it that help you rejoice in this season when we celebrate the Resurrection? You might take a pillar candle and find a way to decorate it to be for you a paschal candle. Do you have fabric covering a small table? You might consider a different truly resplendent, joyful table covering. If you do any of this, take a picture--we'd love to see it and, if you are



willing, put it up on Facebook. Send your photos to HCepiscopal.media@gmail.com.

Renewing your baptismal vows:

It is traditional, at the Great Easter Vigil, or sometimes even principal Easter church to invite their baptismal and moving to voices respond in that make up the To renew your beautiful bowl, them, and fill the Light a candle, the bowl; do it so much of a mess



wonderful sound of water being poured. Then, *even if this is not something you usually do, dip your hand in the water, and either lean over and pour a bit over your head so it runs down your forehead, or cross yourself, touching your forehead, chest, right shoulder and left, as you say in* “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

Day service, for the its members to renew vows. It is beautiful hear a whole host of unison to the questions Baptismal Covenant. baptismal vows, get a and pitcher if you have pitcher with water. and pour the water into you don't make too but can hear the

A Modified Version of the Baptismal Covenant

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

With God's help, I will continue in the apostles' teaching
and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the
prayers?

With God's help, I will you persevere in resisting evil, and,
whenever I fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

With God's help, I will you proclaim by word and
example the Good News of God in Christ?

I will, with God's help.

With God's help, I will seek and serve Christ in all
persons, loving my neighbor as myself?

With God's help, I will strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

End with a resounding, Ahhhhh-*MEN!*

Happy Easter, dear ones—you are loved!