

EASTERTIDE



As Easter Day, April 16, is now behind us, we feel as if Easter is over, but not so fast. We have just entered the season referred to by the church as **Eastertide**. I am certain we have all heard this term at one time or another by those older church members and if you are like me you never gave it much thought. However, Eastertide is really a big deal! It is a continuation of the Easter season. Yes, Jesus arose on the third day, but He was here on the earth and appeared to many people during the 40 day time period following His resurrection before His ascension and ultimately the bestowing of the Holy Spirit (Pentecost). Please continue reading for a brief explanation of Eastertide and hopefully a new appreciation of this most blessed season. After all, without the death and resurrection, our sins would not be forgiven. We need to give the season of Easter the full awe and respect it deserves.

Eastertide is the period of fifty days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday. (April 16, Easter to June 4, Pentecost Sunday in 2017) During this time Jesus appeared to many as proof of His resurrection. He visited with, He ate with, He walked, talked and taught with all He appeared to.

It is celebrated as a single joyful feast, indeed as the “great Lord’s Day”.

Each Sunday of the season is treated as a Sunday of Easter, and after the Sunday of the Resurrection, they are named ‘Second Sunday of Easter, Third Sunday of Easter’, etc. up to the Seventh Sunday of Easter, while the whole fifty day period concludes with Pentecost Sunday.

During this season of Easter we as Christians will observe and celebrate the ‘Ascension of the Lord’ on the fortieth day of Eastertide (a Thursday), May 25, in 2017. Here at Trinity we will celebrate the Ascension on the Sunday following (May 28). Following the celebration of the Ascension, the remaining ten days leading up to Pentecost are days of preparation for the receiving of the Holy Spirit as promised by Jesus before His Ascension.

Pentecost Sunday is the day we celebrate the receiving of the Holy Spirit as He descended on approximately 120 followers of Christ in the Upper Room, recorded in Acts the second chapter. If you would like to learn more about the season of Pentecost, visit this page again after June 4, Pentecost Sunday.

The above explanation is brief but hopefully provides enough information to arouse your curiosity to study and explore what Jesus did, who He appeared to and how lives continued to be changed during that 50 day period following Easter Sunday. Most importantly how He continues to change lives today for all who believe on Him and receive Him as Lord of our lives.

If you would like to read more and would like specific scripture references please visit Trinity Lutheran Church, at 446 S. Gay Street here in Auburn or call at 334-887-3901. You may join us any Sunday at 8am or 10:30am to hear Christ’s message or stop in and visit with the pastor if you have specific questions.

Christ Is Risen!

He Is Risen Indeed!

Happy Eastertide!