

Dear Friends,

A parishioner once mentioned to me a symbol, seen in a church of a different denomination: the dying and bleeding Jesus on the cross. There was something that just didn't feel right about entering a church and focusing on this image. I think she felt there was something missing. That missing feeling may have been hope. Where is the hope if Jesus is still hanging there?

Contrast this with the central image of Easter and the Easter season: the empty tomb. In our Parish we recreate the symbol of the empty tomb with the "Easter garden". When we look up to the Chancel and see the Easter Garden I believe the feelings engendered are quite different than those of the image of the crucifix. Rather than feelings of fear, disgust, dread, and guilt, we have comfort, ease, joy, and lightness of heart. We want to walk in that garden.

Christ's death and resurrection are our entry into that garden – the garden of the realm of God. Crucifixion is not the sole focus. We must have Jesus raised and glorified.

We have come through the dark days of Lent and enter the garden of Easter faith. Singing Alleluia, we celebrate the empty tomb and our share of risen life.

Wishing you the blessings of the Easter season,

The Rev Fran Kovar,
Rector

The schedule of Holy Week and Easter events is enclosed.
An envelope is included for your Easter offering.