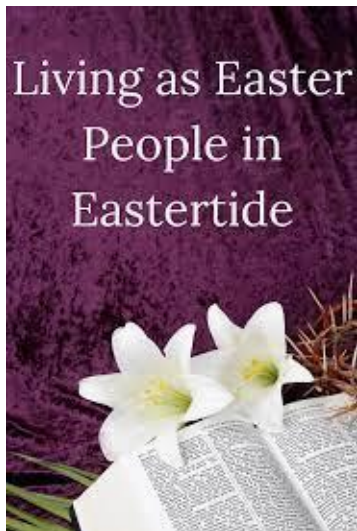


WHAT IS *EASTERTIDE* AND WHAT DOES IT MEAN?



Eastertide is another word for Easter-time, the period after Easter, the holiday on which Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. This a time of “new life”.

Easter always occurs on a Sunday, and the day is referred to as Easter Sunday. In religious contexts, Easter and the days following, is referred to as Eastertide. The season of Eastertide lasts for 50 days, until the day known as Pentecost (day the Holy Spirit “Tongues of Fire” was given to the disciples).

Easter Sunday and Pentecost correspond to pre-existing Jewish feasts: The first day of Pesach (פסח) and the holiday of Shavu'ot (שבועות). Remember Jesus was a Jew and in the Jewish tradition, the 50 days between these holidays are known as Counting of the Omer (the measuring of unthreshed grain/harvest). The first eight days constitute the Octave of Easter (days between Easter Sunday and the following Sunday) and are celebrated as solemnities (seriousness) of the Lord.

The solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord is celebrated on the final 50th day. Eastertide are the days of preparation for the gift of the Holy Spirit given by Jesus first to his disciples and then the others including each of us today. This occurred before the Day of Ascension) Christ’s miraculous rise and return into heaven.

In commemorating the Resurrection of Jesus, Easter Day and Eastertide also celebrates the defeat of death and the hope of salvation for eternal life in heaven. Christian tradition holds that the sins of humanity were paid for by the death of Jesus and that his Resurrection and Ascension represents the anticipation believers can have in their own resurrection upon their earthly death. Therefore, Easter day, Eastertide and the Ascension represent new life for everyone who accepts and believes in the power of the living Jesus Christ.

