



# This Week at Ascension

[Link to the Bulletins for Holy Week and Easter](#)

[Link to Randy's Sermon "Race to Nowhere" from March 20.](#)

[Link to Javier's Sermon "The Roller Coaster Week" from March 20.](#)

[Link to the Episcopal Diocese of Washington's Website](#)

## Calendar Highlights

### Good Friday, March 25

12pm Outdoor Stations of the Cross, Main Church and Various Locations in Old Town Gaithersburg  
7:30pm Prayer Book Liturgy, Main Church

### Easter Eve, March 26

9am Overeaters Anonymous, Undercroft Commons  
11am AI-Anon, Undercroft Commons  
11am Overeaters Anonymous, Chapel  
7:30pm Easter Vigil, Main Church

### Sunday, March 27

*Easter Day - No Christian Formation for Children, Youth, or Adults*  
7:45am Holy Eucharist, Main Church  
9am Festival Eucharist, Main

## The Resurrection of Christ is God's Yes to Us

*Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a German Lutheran pastor and a founding member of the Confessing Church. He was the first of the German theologians to speak out clearly against the persecution of the Jews and the evils of the Nazi ideology. In spring of 1935 Dietrich Bonhoeffer was called by the Confessing Church in Germany to take charge of an "illegal," underground seminary at Finkenwalde, Germany (now Poland). He served as pastor, administrator, and teacher there until the seminary was closed down by Hitler's Gestapo in September, 1937. In the seminary at Finkenwalde Bonhoeffer taught the importance of shared life together as disciples of Christ. He was convinced that the renewal of the church would depend upon recovering the biblical understanding of the communal practices of Christian obedience and shared life. This is where true formation of discipleship could best flourish and mature. Bonhoeffer's teaching led to the formation of a community house for the seminarians to help them enter into and learn the practical disciplines of the Christian faith in community. In 1937 Bonhoeffer completed two books, *Life Together* and *The Cost of Discipleship*. They were first published in German in 1939. Both books encompass Bonhoeffer's theological understanding of what it means to live as a Christian community in the body of Christ. He was arrested by the Gestapo in April 1943. On April 8, 1945 he was hanged by the Gestapo as a traitor in the Flossenburg concentration camp. As he left his cell on his way to execution he said to his companion, "This is the end - but for me, the beginning of life."*

For the world, the empty tomb is an ambiguous historical fact. For believers, is the historic sign — one following necessarily from and confirming the miracle of the resurrection - of the God who acts in history with human beings. There is no historical proof of the resurrection, only a plethora of facts that are extremely peculiar and difficult to interpret even for the historian. For example, we have the empty tomb. For if the tomb had not been empty, this strongest counter-argument against a physical resurrection would certainly have become the basis for an anti-Christian polemic. Nowhere, however, do we encounter this objection. In fact, the opposing side

Church  
11am Festival Eucharist,  
Main Church  
11am Holy Eucharist in  
Spanish, Chapel  
12:30pm Holy Eucharist for  
Families with Young Children  
followed by an Easter Egg  
Hunt, Chapel

#### Monday, March 28

6:30pm Overeaters  
Anonymous, Undercroft  
Commons  
7pm Girl Scouts, Room 6

#### Tuesday, March 29

6:30pm Spanish Class,  
Ascension House  
7pm Education for Ministry,  
Library  
7pm Codependents  
Anonymous, Room 1  
8:30pm AI-Anon, Room 1

#### Wednesday, March 30

10am No Book Group  
7pm Ensemble Rehearsal,  
Main Church  
8pm Gamblers Anonymous,  
Chapel

#### Thursday, March 31

7:45pm Choir Rehearsal,  
Choir Room

[Link to our Online Calendar](#)

## Worship Leaders

Sunday, March 27  
Preacher: (The Rev.) Randy Lord-  
Wilkinson

*Flower Delivery:* Esther Sawyer,  
Adoma Baffoe

7:45 AM *Reader/Prayers:* Leslie  
Sanya, *Chalicians:* Wadai Dennis,  
Leslie Sanya, *Healing Prayer:* Lisa  
Murdock, *Acolytes:* Raymond Chin,  
Jackson Douglas, Aidan Douglas,  
*Welcome Team:* Frank Sanya, Janet  
King, *Altar Guild:* Georgette Dennis

9:00 AM, *Readers:* Suzyn Gonzalez,  
Carleton MacDonald, *Prayers:*

confirms the empty tomb (Matt. 28:11). Or we have the sudden turn of events two days after the crucifixion. An conscious deception is excluded psychologically by virtue of the disciples entire earlier and subsequent behavior, and also by the divergent nature of the resurrection accounts themselves. Self-deception through visionary states is rendered virtually an impossibility for the unbiased historian, given the disciples' own initially quite unbelieving and skeptical rejection of the message (Luke 31:11, et passim.), together with the considerable number and manner of appearances. Hence the historians' evaluation of this matter, which from a scientific perspective remains such a riddle, will be dictated by presuppositions contained in their worldview. But this robs their conclusions of any interest or import for faith, which is grounded in God's acts in history.

So for the world an insoluble riddle does remain, but not one that in and of itself could ever coerce belief in the resurrection of Jesus. For faith, however, this riddle is a sign of the reality which it already knows, an imprint of divine activity within history. Research can neither prove nor disprove the resurrection, for it is a miracle of God. Faith, however, to whom the Resurrected attests himself to as the living Christ, recognizes precisely in the witness of scripture the historic nature of the resurrection as an act of God which in its miraculous nature can only be a riddle for science. Faith receives the certainty of the resurrection only from the present witness of Christ. It finds its confirmation in the historic imprints of the miracle as recounted by scripture.

It is the blessing of Jesus Christ that he does not yet reveal himself visibly to the world, for the very moment that happened would be the end and thus the judgment on unbelief. So the Resurrected withdraws from any visibly salvaging of his honor before the word. In his hidden glory he is with his community, and is attested through the word before all the world, till at the Last Judgment he will come, visible to all human beings, to judge them all.

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, "Theological Letter on "Easter," commissioned by the Pomeranian Council of Brethren, Berlin, March 1940, translated by Douglas W. Stott

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**Announcements**  
(click for more info)

### HEADLINERS

[Holy Week and Easter at Ascension](#)

[This Year's Rice Bowl Offering](#)

[April Movie Night](#)

Gordon Donnelly, *Chalicians*: Sari Stoddard, Major Clemens, *Healing Prayer*: Paul Whitmore, *Acolytes*: Manny Johnson, Msangwa Ogada, Nuelle Johnson, *Welcome Team*: Kevin Blanc, Swithin Kwamena-Poh, Algernon Thomas, *Altar Guild*: Ophelia Yalley-Ogunro, Caryl Thomas

11:15 AM *Reader*: Kate Siberine, *Chalicians*: Sarah Rubin, Avin Lalmansingh, *Healing Prayer*: Laura Shay, *Welcome Team*: Alex Langley, Alice Padmore, *Altar Guild*: Avin Lalmansingh, Anika Lalmansingh

Eucharistic Visitors: Barb Mansfield

## Youth Sunday, April 10

### CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Christian Formation Easter Break

Yoga at Ascension

Education for Ministry

Wednesday Morning Book Group

Listening Heart Community at Ascension

Still Water Mindfulness Practice Group

### WORSHIP

Worship Rosters, April-June, 2016

Bulletins for Tablets Link

Calling all Altar Guild Members

### SERVICE

Men's Shelter Lunch Preparation

Gaithersburg HELP

Lord's Table Soup Kitchen

### LIFE AT ASCENSION

Ascension's Adventure Group

Living with Serious Illness Group

Linen Laundering

Keeping the Feast

Spanish Classes

ESOL Classes

Prayer Request Updates

### PUBLICATIONS

Link to the Annual Report and the Vestry Candidate Questionnaire

March Ascendant

Together We Shine

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Prayers

**FOR THOSE WHOSE LIVES ARE CLOSELY LINKED WITH OURS:**

In the Diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray for All of the Parishes in the Diocese of Washington, The Diocesan Altar Guild and all the Parish Altar Guilds of the Diocese

**PRAY FOR COMFORT, HEALING, COURAGE, AND HOPE:**

Brad, Carol, Kirk, Betty, Heather, Marguerite, Warren, The Scheiner Family, Nancy, Janet, Lou, Fran, and all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

We pray for peace in the world and all who are serving our country here and abroad, especially those in harm's way, and their families.

Equip us and empower us to be witnesses to your love - as advocates and as servants, as ministers of welcome and of hope for all affected by natural disasters, violence, and war.

We pray for all special intentions, and those on our extended Healing Prayer List.

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