

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Today, I am sending you my letter and a photo. The photo is of the Easter lily that Eloise and Tammy received from St. Paul's. They have tended it since our Easter celebration, and as you can see, it is lovely!

Have you ever wondered why it is called an Easter lily? Per Wikipedia--

*Lilium longiflorum* is known as the Easter lily because in Christianity, it is a symbol of the resurrection of Christ, which is celebrated during Eastertide.[1][2] The "lily has always been highly regarded in the Church", as Jesus Himself referenced the flower, saying "Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not; they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these" (Luke 12:27).[3] Moreover, according to pious legend, "after Jesus' death and resurrection, some of these beautiful flowers were found growing in the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus went to pray the night before His crucifixion. Legend has it that these flowers sprung up where drops of Jesus' sweat fell as he prayed".[4][5] In many Christian churches, the chancel is adorned with Easter lilies throughout the Paschal season.[6][7] (See Wikipedia online, for citations and references.)

As we continue our journey with Christ during this Easter season, may we "consider the lilies" and other flowers of spring. We have been given these beautiful examples of God's creation to enjoy. Perhaps as we look at the plants in our yards and our neighbors' yards, they can be reminders to us of Christ's light in our lives and throughout God's world. Thanks be to God.

Peace,

Pastor Cathy