

*The Risen Christ
by the sea*

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EASTER Sunday, April 16th 2023 Our Savior's Lutheran, ELCA

Holy Humor Sunday

The First Sunday after Easter has been known as “Holy Humor Sunday” OR “Bright Sunday” by many Christians. The Devil thought he had done away with God's Son, but Jesus rose from the dead, thereby conquering sin, evil, and eternal death. The joke is on the Devil. Therefore, we celebrate our new life in Christ with laughing, singing, and merry-making!

“If you're not allowed to laugh in heaven, I don't want to go there”

(Martin Luther)

Order of Worship

Prelude

Welcome/Announcements

Invocation

L: We worship as we live in the strong name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Call to Worship

L: We worship the God who created the heavens and the earth.

C: When finished creating, God smiled and said, “It is good!”

L: We worship a God who likes to laugh

C: May we hear God's holy laughter today.

L: The Lord has done great things for us.

C: Our hearts are filled with joy and our mouths with laughter.

L: The bible says there is a time to weep and a time to laugh.

C: We have come together today to have a good time and to laugh in the name of the Lord.

L: We come to worship the God of joy and gladness!

C: We smile and we laugh because we belong to the Lord!

L: For God has burst the bonds of sorrow. Life has crushed the power of death.

C: Our hearts shall swell with cries of gladness; our silent tongues rejoice!

L: The daughters and sons of God are lifted up; Christ has risen!

C: Christ has risen indeed! God is always with us!

Song- "Christ Joyful" by Colin Gibson (tune- The Churches One Foundation)

**We lack the gift of laughter; faith sits all pale and glum, hope dozes on a rafter,
and love is stricken dumb. Come, Christ, into our drabness, tell us that matchless
jest of life and resurrection, your sweetest and your best.**

**We know the trick of tumbling, red nose and redder face; by virtues of our
bumbling ours is the jester's case. Come, Christ, come down immortal, teach us
that matchless jest of life and resurrection your sweetest and your best.**

**You joined our sad profession, made good our foolishness, brought clowning into
fashion, put on our joker's dress. Come, Christ, come holy laughter, to share that
matchless jest of life and resurrection your sweetest and your best.**

**Upon a foolish cross, Lord, you hung to make us mirth; but there you conquered
loss, Lord, old death became new birth. Come, everlasting joy; Christ, confirm
that matchless jest of life and resurrection your sweetest and your best.**

Prayer of Confession

L: God of joy, we know that you have blessed us richly, yet so often, we are down in the dumps over silly little disappointments. You have given us Jesus Christ, and raised him from the dead, and promised us eternal life. But we act like we don't know it! Forgive us, God! Keep us mindful that you always have the last laugh, and that your promise is for joy in every circumstance, and life forever.

(a gift of holy silence)

L: Christ is raised from the dead! Love wins!

C: Hallelujah!

L: Christ lives and reigns for us!

C: Hallelujah! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

Holy Humor Scripture (**Listen for the joy and laughter**):

1 Corinthians 1: 18-22

John 20: 19-31

Song- "Give to Us Laughter" by Walter Farquharson (tune- Be Thou My Vision)

Give to us laughter, O source of our life. Laughter can banish so much of our strife! Laughter and love give us wholeness and health. Laughter and love are the coin of true wealth.

Give to us laughter as sign of deep joy; let us in laughing find Christian employ, joining with stars and with bright northern lights, laughing and praising, and sharing delights.

Even in sorrow and hours of grief, laughter with tears brings us healing relief! God, give us laughter, and God, give us peace, joy of your promise among us increase.

An Affirmation of Faith for Holy Humor Sunday

L: We believe in God, who made us in the image of God.

C: We live, we love, we laugh, because we are like God.

L: We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Lord and Savior.

C: He had the last laugh on the devil when he rose from the dead.

L: We believe in the Holy Spirit, coequal and coeternal with the Father and the Son.
(receive the gift of silence)

L: Forgive us, Lord, when we take ourselves too seriously, when we don't claim the happiness that is rightfully ours as your children, when we forget that you will have the last laugh in this world.

C: Restore to us the joy of our salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing of the Quilts and Those Who Make Them

Prayer of Blessing

L: Dearest Lord. Bless these quilts and those who have made them. May they be used to glorify your holy name. In Jesus name we pray.

C: Amen.

Sharing the Peace

L: The joy and peace of the risen lord be with you always.

C: and also with you.

Offering

Offering Prayer

L: Foolish, foolish God, your belly laugh echoes through the world, we have responded to your invitation to worship you in joy and celebration. May the joy of this day lift our hearts, may we carry your laughter to the world around us, may we live out that foolishness called love wherever we go.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Song- "Sing a Happy Alleluia" by Shirley Erena Murray (tune-Open Now The Gates of Beauty)

Sing a happy alleluia, sing it out with heart and style- we're the echo of God's laughter, we're the image of God's smile.

Refrain:

***Alleluia, all creation,
Alleluia, everyone!***

We're the proof of God's good humor, we're the twinkle in God's eyes, made to shine, reflect the glory, given light and space to fly.

Refrain

Sarah laughed at God's good timing, Mary sang and David danced, Jesus smiled and hugged the children- so in life for us enhanced.

Refrain

Everyday sing alleluia! We are loved, though so absurd, human, foolish, chosen people, God still takes us at our word!

Refrain

Blessing/Sending

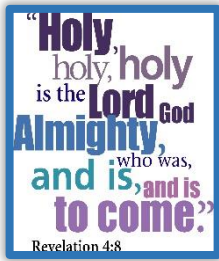
L: Oh God, on Easter the thunder of your voice or perhaps it was your laughter that caused the stone to roll away from Christ's tomb.

C: Make the ground shake beneath us, so that our feet shall dance, so that we shall leap up and run out the door, and carry love to a waiting world!

L: Go in laughter; go in grace. Keep the Lord in your heart and a smile on your face.

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude



ANNOUNCEMENTS – APRIL 16, 2023

Holy Humor Sunday & Quilt Blessing

PRAYER You are invited to light the candles on the tables in the back of the sanctuary any time before, during, or after worship for yourself, or in memory/honor of a loved one as a symbol of the promised light of Christ shining in the darkest, gloomiest, most uncertain times of our life – to give us hope.

BRUNCH TODAY AFTER WORSHIP! Join us for Brunch! WELCA is serving up a breakfast with refreshments for all after worship.

HELP NEEDED! This Wednesday we will be setting up for our Annual Clothing Sale. If you are free, we will start at 9am and go until early afternoon. Join us anytime you are able to – all help is appreciated. Men are needed to help bring boxes from the garage to the Social Hall with a dolly. And Women are needed to organize and set up. Thank you for considering.

FAMILY FUN GAME NIGHT: This Wednesday, April 19th at 5:30 pm - Join us for board games, etc. Bring a snack to share if you like. We will meet in the Fireside Room as workers are setting up for the clothing sale.

GARBAGE/DUMP RUN: If you go to the dump in Virginia, or any St. Louis County Waste Facility, you can help the church by grabbing a few compact fluorescent lights to dispose of. Go to the basement using the stairs by the Social Hall: you will see a big brown garbage can with lights (small and tube) in bundles of 3. Grab 2 bundles of whatever you feel you can transport safely, and help us dispose of them at the waste facilities without charge. It is free to bring up to 6 at a time. Thank you!

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF: It has sadly been a year since the war began, and people of **Ukraine** need help more than ever, along with people in **Turkey** suffering from an earthquake. You can send donations to: *Lutheran World Relief, P.O. Box 17061, Baltimore, MD 21297-1061, or call LWR @ 800-638-3522.* Your help brings needed medical supplies, health services, shelter, food, etc. **PLEASE PRAY - LWR.ORG/UKRAINE-CRISIS.**

NEW LENDING CLOSET: Over the past few years the congregation has collected a few walkers, wheelchairs, and other home medical items to share with each other. So... why not make it official. If you have things like that at home and you are not using them at the moment, you can give them a general cleaning and bring them to the church (leave in the carpeted area in the back of the Fellowship Hall). We are going to make sure things are in good working order and ready to be signed out as people need.

PRAYER CHAIN You may call Janet Heglund @ 218-749-6143, prayer chain leader through April. Please pray for people in need of comfort, hope, healing, or safe transition: Nina, Pastor Tim, Randy, Shelley, Janet H., Ruth T., Hermine, Deb L., Marilee, Nancy, Diane, Matt, Ethan (community), Adam, Ross-(needs transplant of kidneys & pancreas), Brandon, Jessica, Breanna, Jeremy, Richard, Shari, Rodney, Dave C., Lee, Kathy, Mary, Wally C., Marlene, Cliff, Gerilyn & family, Bonnie M.(MS), Victoria, Bob & Wife (ALS).

IF YOU'RE VISITING: *Thank you for being here today. If you would like to know more about OSLC, call the church office at 218-741-6207 or Pastor Tim @ 320-226-7074 (voice messages are routed to our email, so leave us a message). Office hours are Mon-Wed from 10am to 4pm, and Fri. 10am to 4pm (except during holidays). Join us for coffee & treats in our Fellowship Hall across from the sanctuary after worship. Bathrooms are located to the left and down the hall as you exit the sanctuary. Parents: As you enter the Sanctuary, to the left, there is an activity tree holding canvas bags with toys & books for your children to use during worship, and coloring pages/books with crayons in the basket beside it - feel free to use them! You are also welcome to utilize the "Youth Room" down the hall (past the bathrooms) with your little ones if needed (Sunday School also takes place here after worship). We're glad you're here~*

RADIO SPONSORSHIP: Easter's radio broadcast was sponsored by friends & neighbors of Mary Yapel, in memory of Mary. Thank you for supporting this important ministry ~ If you are interested in sponsoring a Sunday worship broadcast in honor of someone or a special event (wedding anniversary, birth of children, baptism date) or in memory of a loved one who has passed, you may do so in full for \$90 or in partial at \$45. Just call the church office, and/or sign up on the sheet provided on the blue bulletin board by the fountain. Those in nursing homes, assisted living communities or at home and unable to attend in person thank you for considering. Our live worship can be heard on KRBT 1340AM & 104.9FM.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & MISC.

- April 18, Tues. 1pm, WELCA Bible Study
- April 18, Tues., 5:30pm, Council Meeting
- April 19, Wed., 9am - ?? Clothing Sale Organizing & Set-up
- April 19, Wed., 5:30pm, Family Fun Game Night in the Fireside Room
- April 21 & 22, Fri. & Sat. Annual ¢.50 Clothing Sale (and Used-A-Bit items) Friday 8:30am - 4pm, Saturday 8:30am - 12pm
- April 23, Sunday, After Worship, Adult Forum Stewardship Study
- April 28, Friday - April 30th, Synod Assembly

