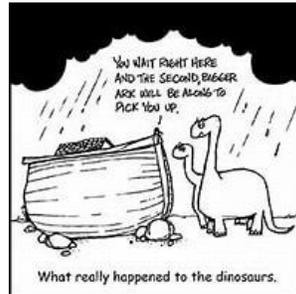


St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
229 South Broad Street
Jersey Shore, PA 17740
570-398-1676

Sunday, April 24, 2022
2nd Sunday of Easter

Holy Humor Sunday



INTRODUCTON

Many American churches are resurrecting and old Easter custom begun by the Greeks in the early centuries of Christianity – “Holy Humor Sunday” celebrations of Jesus’ resurrection on the Sunday after Easter. For centuries in Eastern Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant countries, the week following Easter Sunday, “bright Sunday” was observed by the faithful as “days of joy and laughter” with parties and picnics to celebrate Jesus’ resurrection. Churchgoers and pastors played practical jokes on each other, drenched each other with water, told jokes, sang, and danced. The custom was rooted in the musings of early church theologians that God played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead. “Risus paschalis – The Easter laugh,” the early theologians called it.

Jesus loves a good party!

He performed His first miracle at a wedding reception in Cana, turning water into wine. In the parable of the Prodigal Son, Jesus tells us that the overjoyed father threw a big party for his returning son. “We are going to have a feast, a celebration,” the father declared, “because this son of mine was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.” (Luke 15:23-24)

PRELUDE

P: Christ is Risen!

C: He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: O Great Laughing God,

we come into your presence with joy and longing to be surprised.

We thank you that you have given us the gift of laughter and delight.

These things give hints as to the nature of your purpose for us and for all the earth.

May we find that in giving up to laughter,

there is healing and hope and abundance and blessing.

Tickle our souls with the brush of your Spirit to renew our worship and our living.

C: Amen

READER : It was the week after the resurrection, and disciples were still scattered about Jerusalem and the surrounding villages. John searched high and low for Peter and finally found him still hanging out in the upper room. "Peter, Peter!" he said excitedly. "I have good news and bad news. Which would you rather hear first?"

"By all means give me the good news. We've had enough bad news lately," Peter said.

"The good news is Christ is risen," John said.

"That's great!" said Peter. *"Now what's the bad news?"*

John looked around anxiously and said, *"Well, He's really steamed about last Friday."*

Call to Worship:

Pastor: "Smiling is infectious. You catch it like the flu."

People: "When someone smiled at me today, I started smiling, too."

Pastor: "I passed around the corner, and someone saw my grin."

People: "When he smiled I realized I'd passed it on to him."

Pastor: "I thought about that smile. Then I realized its worth."

People: "a single smile just like mine could travel the whole earth."

Pastor: "So if you feel a smile begin, don't leave it undetected."

People: "Let's start an epidemic quick, and get the world infected!"

GATHERING SONG *I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy TFF 257*

**I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart,
down in my heart, down in my heart.**

**I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart
down in my heart to stay!**

**I've got the peace that passes understanding down in my heart,
down in my heart, down in my heart.**

**I've got the peace that passes understanding down in my heart,
down in my heart to stay!**

**I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus down in my heart,
down in my heart, down in my heart.**

**I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus down in my heart,
down in my heart to stay!**

READER: What kind of cell phone did Delilah use?... Samson

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also, with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Knock. Knock.

C: Who's there?

P: Lettuce

C: Lettuce who?

P: Lettuce pray.

O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The assembly is seated.

Reader: A Pennsylvanian is trying to find a parking space outside her grocery store on a busy evening, but cannot find a single one.

She looks skyward and says, "Lord, if you grant me this space, I'll come to Church every Sunday like a good Lutheran should!"

Low and behold, a space opens up right in front of her at which time, she looks skyward again and says, "Never mind, I found one."

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

L: A reading from Acts

FIRST READING: Acts 5:27-32

Peter has been arrested for proclaiming the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection. His response to the charges of the high priest summarizes the early church's proclamation of forgiveness of sin through repentance.

²⁷When they had brought [the apostles,] they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, ²⁸saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." ²⁹But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. ³⁰The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³²And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Reader: Which servant of God was the worst lawbreaker in the Bible? ...

Moses. He broke all 10 commandments at once.

PSALM: 118:14-29

¹⁴The LORD is my strength and my song,
and has become my salvation.

¹⁵**Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:**
"The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!

¹⁶The right hand of the LORD is exalted!
The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

¹⁷**I shall not die, but live,**
and declare the works of the LORD.

¹⁸The LORD indeed punished me sorely,

but did not hand me over to death.

**¹⁹Open for me the gate of righteousness;
I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.**

²⁰“This is the gate of the LORD;
here the righteous may enter.”

**²¹I give thanks to you, for you have answered me
and you have become my salvation.**

²²The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

**²³By the LORD has this been done;
it is marvelous in our eyes.**

²⁴This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**²⁵Hosanna! O LORD, save us!
We pray to you, LORD, prosper our days!**

²⁶Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD;
we bless you from the house of the LORD.

**²⁷The LORD is God and has given us light.
Form a procession with branches up to the corners of the altar.**

²⁸You are my God, and I will thank you;
you are my God, and I will exalt you.

**²⁹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;
God’s mercy endures forever.**

READER: Early one morning the husband and wife were arguing over who should get out of the warm bed to make the coffee. Finally, the wife folded her arms and said decidedly, “You have to make the coffee. It’s in the Bible!”

The husband was shocked. “Is not! Show me!”

Pulling out her Bible, the wife opened it to one of the New Testament books and declared, “It says right here — HEBREWS!”

L: A reading from Revelations

SECOND READING: Revelation 1:4-8

The book of Revelation recounts a mystical vision of the risen Christ experienced by a Christian prophet named John. Here he describes Christ as a timeless redeemer, the beginning, present, and end of all time.

⁴John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷Look! He is coming with the clouds;
every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him;
and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

⁸“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Women stand and sing “Hallelu” then sit, Men stand and sing “Praise Ye the Lord” then sit.

Repeat twice:

(W) Halle-lu, Halle-lu, Halle-lu, Halleluiah – (M) Praise Ye the Lord

(W) Halle-lu, Halle-lu, Halle-lu, Halleluiah – (M) Praise Ye the Lord

(M) Praise ye the Lord – (W) Halleluiah!

(M) Praise ye the Lord – (W) Halleluiah!

(M) Praise ye the Lord – (W) Halleluiah! (M) Praise ye the Lord!

GOSPEL:

P: The holy gospel according to John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

John 20:19-31

The unprecedented events of the day of resurrection continue as the risen Jesus appears to his fearful disciples. A week later, after Thomas worships Jesus, Jesus pronounces that the blessings of the resurrection are also for those who “have not seen and yet believe.”

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

Reader: Why didn't Noah ever go fishing?... He only had two worms.

SERMON

Reader: "There *will be a meeting of the Church Board immediately after the service,*" announced the pastor.

After the close of the service, the Church Board gathered at the back of the sanctuary for the announced meeting. But there was a stranger in their midst — a visitor who had never attended their church before.

"*My friend,*" said the pastor, "*Didn't you understand that this is a meeting of the Board?*"

"*Yes,*" said the visitor, "*and after today's sermon, I suppose I'm just about as bored as anyone else who came to this meeting.*"

The assembly will stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY *This Little Light of Mine* 677

CREED

We believe in God, who made us in His image.

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

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.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, coequal and coeternal with the Father and the Son.

C: Our counselor, our guide, our motivator – He is our joy!

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Holy One who acts righteously, equip your church as witnesses of your goodness to go and tell others of your abundant love, that they may believe that Jesus is our salvation and life. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Renew your people's commitment to use resources responsibly and to live well with your creation. Invite us to recognize and nurture signs of resurrection life in the natural world. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Direct those who are given human authority to lead with humility and compassion. By your Holy Spirit channel their attention toward serving those who are most in need. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Uphold your children who cry out to you (*especially*). Wherever people are overcome by the fear of death, breathe into them your life and peace. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Inspire those who lead your people in worship and praise (*especially the art and music ministries of this congregation*). With joyful motion and sound, send us forth with praise that we cannot keep to ourselves. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Uplift the work and ministry of Seafarer's International. They, like the rest of the world, have struggled these past two years because of the pandemic. Help them to know their work is important and keep the seafarer merchants safe as they ship the goods of the world to all nations. God in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Give us the words of your saints who, like Thomas, boldly confessed your Son as Lord and God. With Jesus our leader, empower us to live according to his ways. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Gracious God, we uplift the work and ministry of Seafarer's International. They, like the rest of the world, have struggled these past two years because of the pandemic. Help them to know their work is important and keep the seafarer merchants safe as they ship the goods of the world to all nations. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

C: Amen.

The assembly is seated.

Responding in Love

Our Offerings *This is our response to God's grace.*

Our Offering of Music

CHOIR ANTHEM You're Pretty Lucky, Mr. Churchman!

The assembly stands.

OFFERTORY

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit with me.

Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Living God,

you gather the wolf and the lamb to feed together in your peaceable reign,
and you welcome us all at your table.

Reach out to us through this meal,

and show us your wounded and risen body,

that we may be nourished and believe in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING P.144 *(in the beginning of the hymnal)*

Dialogue

Preface by the Pastor

Holy Holy Holy

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Words of Institution

Holy God, you alone are holy,
you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise:
beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell;
with every breath.

We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness:
through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness;
out of exile; into the future.

We bless you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son:
at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer;
beside the sinner; among the poor;
with us now.

We thank you, O God.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread,
and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples,
saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup
is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table,
and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering;
within this meal; among your people; throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks
to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

P: The risen Christ dwells with us here.
All who are hungry, all who are thirsty, come.

The assembly is seated.

Communion

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say
The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
and each person may respond Amen.

Lamb of God (Baby Shark Mass)

$\text{♩} = 112$

1. Lamb of God do do do do do do, Lamb of God do do do do do do, Lamb of
2. way sins do do do do do do, Take a - way sins, do do do do do do, Take a -

3. God do do do do do do, Lamb of God. 2. Take a God. 3. Grant us
way sins do do do do do do, Lamb of

6. peace do do do do do do, Grant us peace do do do do do do, Grant us
4. God do do do do do do, Lamb of God do do do do do do, Lamb of

8. peace do do do do do do Grant us peace, 4. Lamb of
God do do do do do do, Lamb of God.

SONG AFTER COMMUNION *Jesus, Name Above All Names*

(repeat twice)

*Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, glorious Lord,
Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, living Word.*

The assembly stands.

Prayer after Communion

A: We give you thanks, generous God,
for in this bread and cup
we have tasted the new heaven and earth
where hunger and thirst are no more.
Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection,
that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name.
Amen.

Reader : At what time of day was Adam created?... A little before Eve.

BENEDICTION

People: "Lord, grant me a joyful heart and a holy sense of humor. Please give me the gift of faith, to be renewed and shared with others each day. Teach me to live this moment, looking neither to the past with regret, nor to the future with apprehension. Let love be my guide, and my life a prayer."

Pastor: "Go in laughter, go in grace. Keep the Lord in your heart and a smile on your face."

SENDING

If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands (clap clap)
If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands (clap clap)
If you're happy and you know it, then your face will surely show it
If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands (clap clap)

If you're happy and you know it, stomp your feet (stomp stomp)
If you're happy and you know it, stomp your feet (stomp stomp)
If you're happy and you know it, then your face will surely show it
If you're happy and you know it, stomp your feet (stomp stomp)

If you're happy and you know it, shout "Amen" (Amen)
If you're happy and you know it, shout "Amen" (Amen)
If you're happy and you know it, then your face will surely show it
If you're happy and you know it, shout "Amen" (Amen)

If you're happy and you know it, do all three (clap-clap, stomp-stomp, Amen)
If you're happy and you know it, do all three (clap-clap, stomp-stomp, Amen)
If you're happy and you know it, then your face will surely show it
If you're happy and you know it, do all three (clap-clap, stomp-stomp, Amen)

DISMISSAL

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.

Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Announcements

We welcome our visitors and ask that you sign a Visitor Attendance and Holy Communion Card that is located in the pew rack. We ask that cards be returned via the offering plate during the receiving of the offering. We practice “open Communion” here at St. John meaning that all who believe in the “real presence” of Christ are welcomed to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We offer two choices for Holy Communion, wine or grape juice. Those worshipers desiring grape juice are asked at the communion rail to place their right hand over their heart after receiving “The Body of Christ.”

Remember in prayer: Rowan Aldridge, Dave Barner, Mary Bower, Mike Cervinsky, Agnes Cryder, Don Delaney, Mary Ellen Dougherty, Charlie Dunne, Joanne Fisher, William Greene, Fred Hoffer, Mick Miller, David Mitchell, Jean Ann Snyder, John Truax, and all of our shut-ins; the safety of our military troops around the world (Mark Baier, Isaac Boring, Jake Cordrey, Ben Cramer, Patrick Hamlin, Paul Laidacker, Kenny Leitch, Steven Moore, Maddison Myers, Tyler O’Neal, Adam Shaffer, Richie Speicher, Aaron Stabley, Paul St. James, Jenna White); Family Promise. Bishop Eaton, our Presiding Bishop; and Bishop Collins, Bishop of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. For our Companion Synod in Liberia and Ansbach-Wurzburg, Germany. Pray for Peace in Ukraine and an end to war.

Special thanks to this week’s helpers: : Lector - Deb Heydrich; Assisting Ministers – Joyce Braucht and Carl Schaefer; Head Usher - Cozette Stoltzfus; Teller – Jim Ely; Bulletin Sponsor – Jim Ely; Children’s Church – Holly Dittmer

Next week’s helpers: Lector – Kathy Brundick; Assisting Ministers—Deb Heydrich and Ron Brundick; Head Usher –Lon Myers; Teller –Christine Barner; Bulletin Sponsor – Jim Ely; Children’s Church –Pam Wehler; Flowers – Brundick.

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of all April birthdays by Chuck ad Laurel Gottschall.

The Sanctuary Candle is given in memory of our parents by Gary and Gina Johnson.

We want to extend a **big thank you** to everyone who donated towards the Easter breakfast, all the kitchen workers and the staff that helped setting up, serving and tearing down the dining room. The Dean and Gloria Ely family.

The Christian Ed Committee was blessed with a VBS Coordinator Molly Hollick and Assistant Coordinator Dawn McCloskey. They are planning organizational meetings.

SAVE THE DATE! May 21, 2022 a Spring House cleaning is being planned for the church. More information and sign-up sheets early in May.

The Lutheran Church Women's Prayer Chain is a vital ministry of St. John Lutheran. Anyone in need of prayers is asked to contact any of the following persons:
Gloria Ely – 570-873-3597 Sarah Davidson - 570-398-0659 Joyce Braucht - 570-398-2852

Jersey Shore Area Ministerium is hosting a program for the **National Day of Prayer**, May 5, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Middle School Auditorium.

Payments for Sight and Sound "DAVID" February 6 - \$65.00; May 1 - \$65.00 and the final payment June 17 - \$60 Fare includes bus, play, meal, tip for driver and fund raiser for Luke Antolick. The show is August 6, 2022 -- Children 10 and under \$125.00; Adults \$190.00. Joyce Braucht.

Camp Mount Luther, the outdoor ministry of the Upper Susquehanna Synod, is now accepting applications for Summer Ministry Team positions. Candidates must possess a commitment to Christ, a passion for the outdoors, and strong leadership and teamwork skills. The camp is accredited by the American Camp Association. If you or someone you know might be interested, please contact the camp office or submit an application online at www.campmountluther.org/application. They need to employ five more camp counselors.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Sunday, April 24, 2022 *Holy Humor Sunday*
9:30 a.m. Children's Church begins
9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service *2nd Sunday of Easter*

Monday, April 25, 2022
6:00 p.m. Youth Group all Middle and High School Youth
Theme: Earth Day and God's Creation. Supper provided

Wednesday, April 27, 2022
10:00 a.m. Trinity Episcopal Worship
6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, May 1, 2022 *3rd Sunday of Easter*
9:30 a.m. Children's Church begins
9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service

The Blues Brothers were not able to be present with us this year but they hope to return to St. John next year.

If anyone would like two -- 4'x4' planting box kits that can fit together, see Pastor.

Thank you to everyone who helped to decorate the Sanctuary for Easter and for everyone who purchased flowers that were used to decorate the Sanctuary. It was beautiful.

Thank you also to everyone who helped organize the Easter Egg Hunt for the children.