

Laughter Is The Sound of Hope and Joy!



The Sunday after Easter has been known as "Holy Humor" Sunday" by some Christians. Satan 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 Satan! Therefore, we Christians can celebrate our new life in Christ with laughing, singing, and merry-making!

Holy Humor weekend
April 7 & 8, 2018
First Lutheran Church, ELCA

Prelude **"This Joyful Eastertide"** (setting, Lynn Arthur Koch)

Greeting

P: Kia Ora!

C: Kia Ora!

Welcome/Announcements

Song **"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!"** **#385**

Call To Laughter

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

C: When he finished creating he smiled and said, "It is good!"

P: We worship a God who likes to laugh.

C: May we hear his holy laughter today.

P: The Lord has done great things for us.

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

P: 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.

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

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

Confession of Sins and Absolution

P: Sin is no joke. God demands faithfulness and obedience from his children.

C: We have let sin into our lives and we have disobeyed our Father's commands.

P: Let us join together in confessing our sin to the Lord.

C: Gracious Father, we have disobeyed your commands, we have not followed your will, and we have not trusted your promises. We have also neglected to love our neighbor as ourselves. Lord, forgive us and cleanse us of our sin. Empower us to be more obedient and trusting. Help us to follow your will and walk in your ways. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

P: As a pastor in the Church of Jesus Christ, by his command and promise, I declare all your sins are forgiven. Through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus we have been freed from the power of sin and evil. Let us give thanks to the Lord for his mercy!

C: Great is the Lord, for his mercy and goodness have given us new life! We rejoice and laugh together!

Song **"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"** **#836**

The Joyous Word

Knock Knock Jokes

Psalm 118:14-29

Holy Gospel John 20:19-31

Sermon

"His Peace"

Song **"Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" #886 (vs. 1, 2, 3, 6)**

Affirmation of Faith.

When God created this world and all that is in it, when he breathed life into the man and woman, he smiled and said, "It is good!"

When Jesus gave hearing to the deaf and sight to the blind, when he taught people about God's great love for them, Jesus smiled and said, "Our Father is good!" When Jesus was slowly dying on the cross he suffered greatly for us all, and he said, "Father, I have accomplished your will." When Jesus rose from the grave he spit in Satan's face and declared, "I am the way, the truth, and the life!"

The Holy Spirit is our Guide and Teacher who helps us negotiate the good and bad we experience each day. Through Word and Sacrament he grows us into humble, thankful, and joy-filled people.

We give thanks to the Triune God who gives us life and joy!

Prayers of The People

P: Lord, grant me a heart filled with laughter, wonder, and joy.

C: Keep me from becoming too serious, and teach me to laugh.

P: May I begin each day with a smile on my face.

C: As I say my evening prayers, may I give thanks for the laughter I enjoyed today.

P: Teach me, O Lord, to live this moment only.

C: Looking neither to the past with regret nor to the future with apprehension.

P: Lord, as I stumble through this life, help me to create more laughter than tears.

C: Help me to spread more laughter and cheer than despair and gloom.

P: Help me see the sense of wonderment in the eyes of a child.

C: Help me see the twinkle in the eyes of the aged.

P: Thank you, Jesus, for overcoming sin and death for us.

C: Our hearts are filled with joy because Jesus gives us victory!

P: We thank the Lord for our life in Christ!

C: May we continue to laugh and enjoy life, for we belong to God! Amen.

Offering **"We Walk By Faith"** (arr. Anne Krentz Organ)

Offering Prayer

C: Holy Father, the Giver of all that is good and life-giving, we are grateful for the people and things in life that cause us to laugh. We celebrate Jesus' victory over Satan and the grave with joy-filled hearts. We want our congregation to continue to share this great news with our community, so we gladly give ourselves, our time, and our money for this important work. Bless us, O Lord. Amen.

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

Sharing the Meal	"We Walk by Faith"	#635
	"The Peace of the Lord"	#646
	"Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"	#392

Prayer of Thanks

C: We sing to the Lord a new song for his victor over death and for giving us new life. With hearts willed with hope and peace, we join all creation in praising our God for his mighty deeds and his exceeding greatness! Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!

Benediction

P: May God be in our hearts and heads.

C: May the Father be in our eyes so we might see each person as his child.

P: May Jesus be in our hearts and in our hands as we seek to serve.

C: May the Spirit be in our mouth and in our thoughts as we share good news.

P: Keep the Lord in your heart and a smile on your face!

C: We go with joy and laughter!

Song **"On Our Way Rejoicing"** **#537**

Postlude **"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today, Alleluia!"** (setting, Healey Willan)