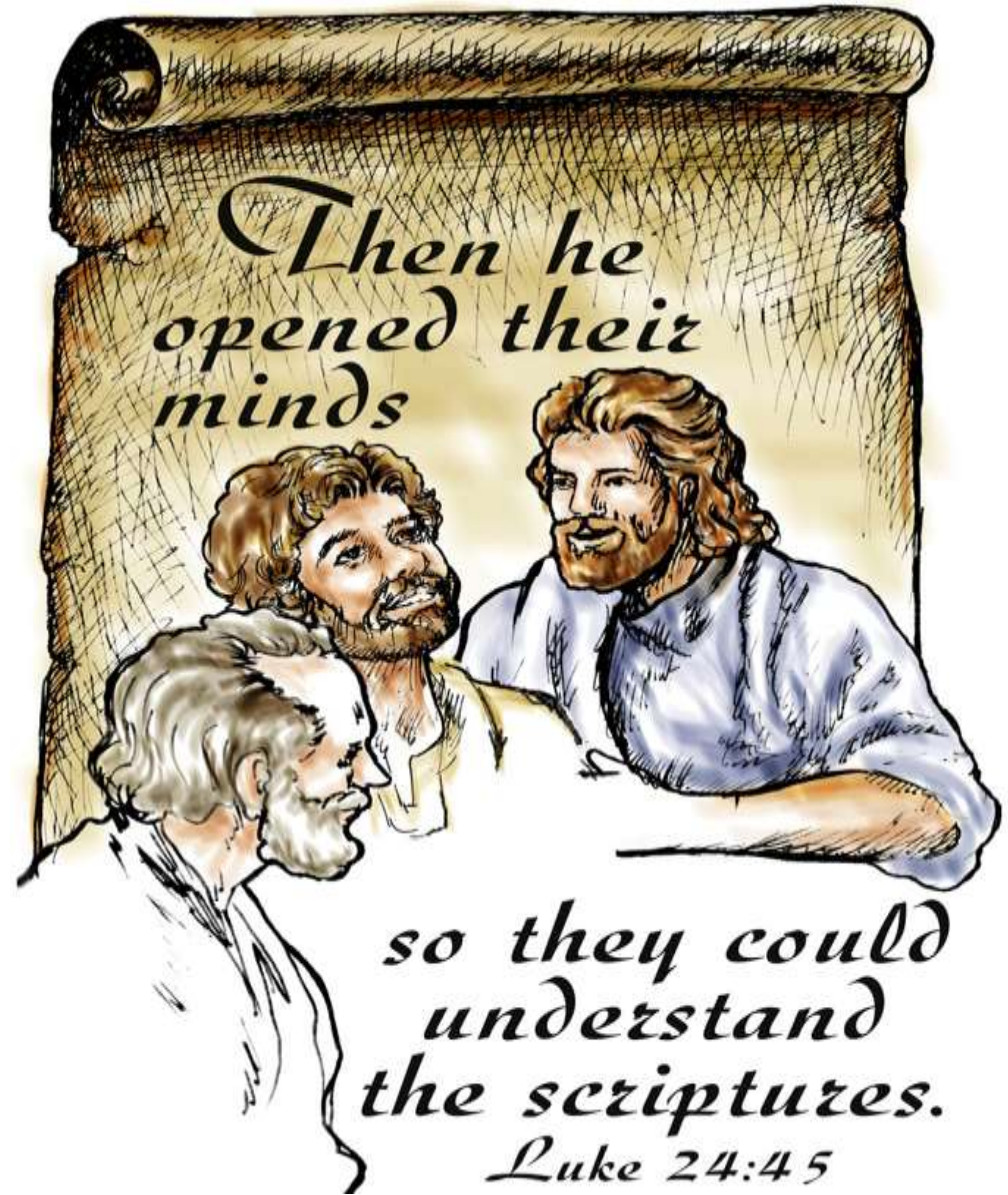
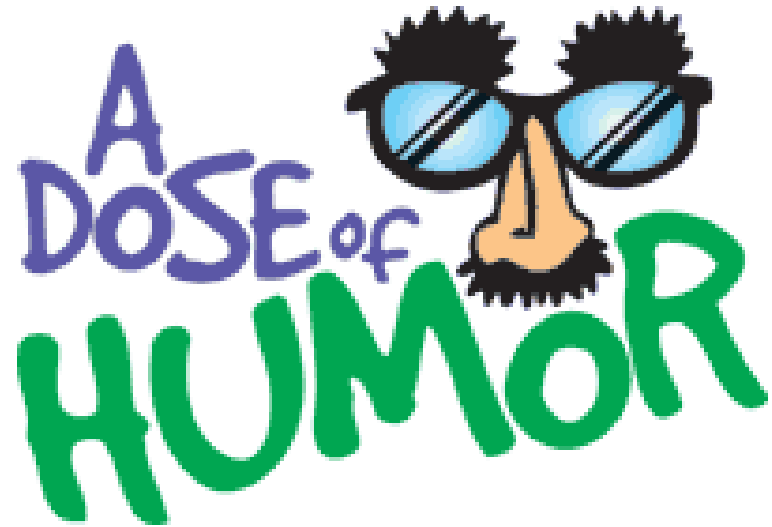


What is Holy Humor / Laughter Sunday?

The idea of setting aside one Sunday each year to celebrate God's gift of laughter and joy has a long and rich history in many congregations around the world. Churches in 15th century Bavaria used to celebrate the Sunday after Easter as Risus Paschalis ('God's Joke,' or 'the Easter laugh') Priests would deliberately include amusing stories and jokes in their sermons in an attempt to make the faithful laugh. After the service, people would gather together to play practical jokes on one another and tell funny stories. It was their way of celebrating the resurrection of Christ – the supreme joke God played on Satan by raising Jesus from the dead. In the Orthodox tradition, people would gather on Easter Monday to tell jokes and funny stories, and to dance and eat together.

In 1988, the Fellowship of Merry Christians began encouraging churches to resurrect some of these Christian traditions—to celebrate the grace and mercy of God through the gift of laughter and joy.



**Sunday, April 14, 2024
9:00 a.m.**

Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church

It is a joy to gather together for worship!

St. Paul Purpose Statement

Living Christ centered lives so we may love all, serve our community, and share the Word.

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m. In-person worship with Holy Communion

10:00 a.m. In-person Sunday School – September – May

Communion

We celebrate Jesus' presence each week in Holy Communion. This is the Lord's Supper and Jesus invites us: whether you are a lifelong Lutheran, or just considering Christianity; if you are an infant or elderly; if your family has been in the United States for generations, or has only recently arrived; if you are LGBTQIA+ or straight; if you live with disabilities, chronic illness, or are able-bodied and currently healthy; if you are home-blessed or homeless; ... YOU are welcome at God's meal of grace at St. Paul.

Accessibility

Handicap parking, entrance, wheelchair, and restrooms are available. Sound amplifiers and large print bulletins are available. Please ask an usher for assistance.

Children's Offering

In April the children's offering will support our synod partners in Tanzania and India. The offerings will be sent directly to non-profit organizations that work with the North Central Diocese of The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania and the Arcot Lutheran Church (ALC) in India. The Friends of Mwangaza supports education programs that tackle issues related to teaching, learning, public health, empowering women, and building community in Tanzania. Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry supports education through financially supporting students at the ALC boarding homes in India. Check out both organizations here: <https://lutheranpartners.org/what-we-do> or <https://www.mwangazapartnership.org/>

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Pastor Makayla Dahleen

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Prelude

"Trading My Sorrows"

Darrell Evans

The congregation is invited to join Maureen in song.

I'm trading my sorrows I'm trading my shame

I'm laying them down for the joy of the Lord

I'm trading my sickness I'm trading my pain

I'm laying them down for the joy of the Lord

Yes Lord, yes Lord, yes yes Lord Yes Lord, yes Lord, yes yes Lord Yes Lord, yes Lord, yes yes Lord, Amen

I am pressed but not crushed persecuted not abandoned

Struck down but not destroyed

I am blessed beyond the curse for His promise will endure

That his joy's gonna be my strength

Though the sorrow may last for the night

His joy comes with the morning

Welcome/Announcements

Call to Worship

L: This is the day that God has made

All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

L: How then shall we rejoice?

All: We will rejoice with song and laughter, with stories and prayer.

L: How then shall we rejoice?

All: We will rejoice with smiles and hugs, with time spent with those who we love.

L: How then shall we rejoice?

All: We will live each moment to its fullest, knowing that in love God created us to LIVE!

L: This is the day that God has made

ALL: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Gathering

“Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia”

ELW #364

1 Christ has a - ris - en, al - le - lu - ia.
2 For three long days the grave did its worst
3 The an - gel said to them, “Do not fear.

Re - joice and praise him, al - le - lu - ia.
un - til its strength by God was dis - persed.
You look for Je - sus who is not here.

For our re - deem - er burst from the tomb,
He who gives life did death un - der - go.
See for your - selves the tomb is all bare.

e - ven from death, dis - pel - ling its gloom.
and in its con - quest his might did show.
On - ly the grave - clothes are ly - ing there.”

Refrain

Let us sing praise to him with end - less joy.

Death's fear - ful sting he has come to de - stroy.

Our sin for - giv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!

Je - sus is liv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!

4 “Go spread the news: he’s not in the grave.
He has arisen this world to save.
Jesus’ redeeming labors are done.
Even the battle with sin is won.”
Refrain

5 Christ has arisen to set us free.
Alleluia, to him praises be.
Jesus is living! Let us all sing;
he reigns triumphant, heavenly king.
Refrain

Text: Bernard Kyamanywa, b. 1938; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922.
Music: MPURAHINI, HALELUYA, Tanzanian traditional
Text © 1968 Lutheran Theological College, Makumira, Tanzania, admin. Augsburg Fortress
Tr. © 1977 Howard S. Olson, admin. Augsburg Fortress

GREETING

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

All: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray together:

All: O Holy One, you fill the world with wonder, an open tomb, empowered disciples, love that cannot be diminished. You fill the world with joy and laughter, the wagging of tails, the playfulness of primates, clowns, comedians, and witty remarks. You fill the earth with life, with green buds, singing birds, and the laughter of children. Fill us with your joyful laughter, that we may celebrate your presence and the richness of life. Amen.

Psalm in Song

“This is the Day the Lord Has Made”

This is the day, this is the day
that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made;
we will rejoice, we will rejoice
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day that the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this the day that the Lord has made.

First Reading: Romans 12:9-21

R: A reading from Romans:

⁹Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. ¹¹Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. ¹²Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality. ¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. ¹⁸If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord. ²⁰On the contrary: “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.”

²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God.

Children’s Message

Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel Reading Luke 24:36b-48

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter,

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

^{36b}Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹While in their joy they were disbelieving and still

wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence. ⁴⁴Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

ELW #836

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,
Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove,
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise,
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!
Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way,
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;
Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day,
chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee,
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1922

Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

Prayers of Intercession

P: United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Each petition ends with these words:

R: Lord, of Laughter,

All: receive our prayer.

Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you!

P: Let us share a sign of Christ's peace in whatever way you are comfortable.

MEAL

Offering

"Rejoice, the Lord is King!"

Wesley/Darwell

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray, Loving God, it is laughable that these simple gifts of bread and wine bear your body and blood. Enliven us in the joy of this great mystery. Transform us through these gifts to pour out your joy in all the world.

All: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

All: 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: Come to the banquet for all is now ready.

Communion

Communion Music

"Jesu Joy of Man's Dressing"

Bach

Prayer after Communion

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

All: Amen.

P: Let us pray

Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

All: Amen

Blessing

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope † bless you now and always.

All: Amen.

Sending Song

“God Bless You Merry Sinner”

Tune: God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen)

God bless you merry sinner, you're forgiven it is true;
Remember Christ your Savior has lived and died for you,
and lives again as King of Kings, of saint and sinner, too.
Oh, tidings of Easter peace and joy, peace and joy.
Oh, tidings of Easter peace and joy.

In Jerusalem at Calvary that dismal Friday morn,
amid the pain and suffering eternal life was born.
It came with arms outstretched to us, right through the curtain torn.
Oh, tidings of Easter peace and joy, peace and joy.
Oh, tidings of Easter peace and joy.

So sing an alleluia, for our Savior's victory,
and shout to all “Hosanna!” that we have been set free
from sin and death and devil's grip throughout eternity.
We'll have tidings of Easter peace and joy, peace and joy.
Glad tidings of Easter peace and joy.

Dismissal

P: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

“I Have the Joy”

Cooke/Kirkpatrick

We Remember in Prayer; those on our Home Visitation list and those on our prayer list: Mary Summers, Dorothy Carr, Eric Brown, Michelle Klinger, Barb Lenn, Lori Dewey, Shirley Graftaas, Betty Steinke, Michael Harting, Bob Cornelsen, Larry Wahler, JoDell Cruz, Harold & Sandy Julifs, Lila Edeus, and Berta Beyer.

Worship Assistants:

Opener/Head Usher/Closer – Mary Ordean

Acolytes – Ordean family

Greeters – Bev Graunke, Susan Kuehl

Ushers – Diane Yoeckel, Stacey Avelar

Reader – Stacey Avelar

Sound – Bradyn Arians

Musicians:

Sunday School Students

Maureen Marrandino

Linda VonHolten

Next week – April 21

Opener/Head Usher/Closer – David Carrillo

Acolytes – *Volunteer Needed*

Greeters – Jim & Cheryl Gorman

Ushers – Nancy Beck, Janie Billings

Reader – Jim Gorman

Sound – Bradyn Arians

Coffee Fellowship – *Volunteer Needed*

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