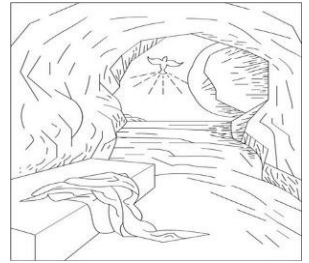


Zion Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, SD
Holy Humor Sunday
zionlutheranaberndeen.org



PRELUDE

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

What is it? A day to celebrate the Easter story confessing all of the ways God calls us into lavishing and abundant joy. Worship will be outside (or in the fellowship hall if weather is bad). Come ready to laugh and giggle, knowing the greatest folly was Satan believing he could win, and the greatest surprise gift was God's promise of salvation secured in the risen Christ.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

This is the day which the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Bless this place, O God, as we are gathered to hear your word. Make it a place where your mission is lived. Strengthen our community to serve you and others with joy. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

Joy to the World: Easter Flavor
(sung to the tune of "Joy to the World")

- 1 Joy to the World, the Lord's alive,
Awake, rejoice and sing!
It's just as He had said,
He's risen from the dead.
Salvation now He brings,
Salvation now He brings,
Salvation, salvation now He brings.
- 2 Joy to the World, the empty tomb,
Proclaims a victory.
Of light compelling,
A great dispelling
Of darkness in the world,
Of darkness in the world,
Of darkness, of darkness in the world!

3 Joy to the World,
Our Savior reigns,
Let Heaven and earth proclaim
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

INVOCATION

O Great Laughing God, we come into your presence with joy and longing to be surprised.
May we find that as we dwell with laughter there is healing and hope, abundance and blessing.
Tickle our souls with the brush of your Spirit to renew our worship and our living. Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Forgive us Lord
when we take ourselves too seriously.

Forgive us Lord
when we close our eyes to the joy that surrounds us and only focus on the bad we see.

Forgive us Lord,
when we close our ears and do not hear your joy, but only listen to hate.

Forgive us Lord,
when our mouth neglects joyful language and favors words of pain.

Forgive us Lord,
When we focus on our self-glory and forget that you will have the last laugh in this world.

Forgive us Lord,
when we don't claim the happiness that is rightfully ours as your children.

Redeeming God,
with you there is always more life, more hope, more joy. Open us now to your love that lets us relax into life filling us with trust, hope and justice.

Through Christ your joy is restored. Be filled with the with Easter's laughter; know the healing joy of God's love poured into you through Jesus Christ our savior and Lord. In the name of the father ✠ and the son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

Give to Us Laughter

(sung to the tune of "Be Thou My Vision")

- 1 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
- 2 Give to us laughter as sign of deep joy;
let us in laughing fine Christian employ,
joining with stars and with bright northern lights,
laughing and praising and sharing delights.
- 3 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.

GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together: O good and gracious God, **we laugh as a sign of the joy you have brought into the world through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.** Inspire us to move with joyful motion and sound, eliminating arguments, fighting, and gossip. Help us to see our neighbors through the splendor of your love so together we can sing alleluia. Amen.

FIRST READING

Acts 4:32-35

³²Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 40:4-10

(read responsively)

⁴Happy are those who make
the LORD their trust,
who do not turn to the proud,
to those who go astray after false gods.

⁵You have multiplied, O LORD my God,
your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us;
none can compare with you.
Were I to proclaim and tell of them,
they would be more than can be counted.

⁶Sacrifice and offering you do not desire,
but you have given me an open ear.
Burnt offering and sin offering
you have not required.

⁷Then I said, "Here I am;
in the scroll of the book it is written of me.

⁸I delight to do your will, O my God;
your law is within my heart."

⁹I have told the glad news of deliverance
in the great congregation;
see, I have not restrained my lips,
as you know, O LORD.

¹⁰I have not hidden your saving help within my heart,
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation;
I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness
from the great congregation.

SECOND READING

1 John 1:1—2:2

¹We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life — ²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us — ³we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. ⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

¹My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PREPARING FOR THE WORD

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Hark, the Herald Angels Sing: Easter
(sung to the tune of "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing")

1 Hark the herald angel said,
"Why seek Jesus with the dead?
He's not here, as you can see,
Grave cloths lie where he would be.
On your way now, tell the others,
Jesus will be with his brothers.
Sisters, too, he wants to see
on the hills of Galilee."

Hark the herald angel said,
"He is risen from the dead!"
Hark the herald angel said,
"He is risen from the dead!"

The holy gospel according to John, the twentieth chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL

John 20:19-31

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.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Reverend Nicole Martin

HYMN OF THE DAY

Borning Cry

ELW #732

- 1 "I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;
in a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell."
- 2 "When you heard the wonder of the Word
I was there to cheer you on;
you were raised to praise the living Lord,
to whom you now belong.
If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk till rising sun."
- 3 "In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been,
with just one more surprise."
- 4 "I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold."

KIDS' TIME

Pastor Nicole

BAPTISM

Eloise Mae Anderson

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING

We glorify God in our giving. Our offering is an act of worship that makes the ministries of this congregation possible. We encourage everyone to give. We encourage you to consider giving a gift online at zionlutheranaberdeen.org/giving or by mail as you are able. If you would like, use the QR code scanner on your smart phone to give online.



OFFERING HYMN

Beautiful Day, Glorious Day

(sung to the tune of "Silent Night, Holy Night")

- 1 Beautiful Day, Glorious Day
All is new, all's okay!
'Round the tomb
There is dancing and song,
See inside that the body is gone.
Christ, the Savior's alive,
Christ, the Savior's alive.
- 2 Beautiful Day, Glorious Day,
Soldiers quake and run away,
The stone is cleared from heaven above,
Heavenly host says "Hallelujah,"
Jesus, Lord, at new birth,
Jesus, Lord, at new birth.
- 3 Beautiful Day, Glorious Day,
Sing and shout, tell and say,
Radiant beams from this sinner's face,
Show because of amazing grace,
Christ, the Savior's alive,
Christ, the Savior's alive.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together: Holy and generous host, you set us at a table where we can gather together in your love. Humbly accept the gifts we bring, our laughter, our smiles, and a portion of the financial generosity we have been blessed with. Take these offerings of our lives, feed us and nourish us to be your risen body in the world. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim
Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray in confidence the words our Savior gave us:

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

Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, gives everyone a place at the welcome table. Alleluia! Come to the feast.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

All who believe that our Lord Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine of The Lord's Supper bringing to us the gift of forgiveness and the promise of eternal life, are welcome to gather at the Lord's Table.

COMMUNION HYMN

I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy

1 I've got the joy, joy, joy
Down in my heart (Where?)
Down in my heart! (Where?)

Down in my heart!
I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy
Down in my heart
Down in my heart to stay.

Refrain:

And I'm so happy
So very happy
I've got the joy of Jesus in my heart
And I'm so happy So very happy
I've got the joy of Jesus in my heart.

2 I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus
Down in my heart (where?)
Down in my heart (where?)
Down in my heart
I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus
Down in my heart (where?)
Down in my heart to stay. *Refrain*

3 I've got the peace that passes understanding
Down in my heart (where?)
Down in my heart (where?)
Down in my heart
I've got the peace that passes understanding
Down in my heart (where?)
Down in my heart to stay. *Refrain*

BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

SONG OF THANKS

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

Joyful, Joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee, praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the lights of day.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together: Live-giving God, joyful God, who created the heavens and earth, **your voice echoing throughout the universe, we have responded to your invitation to join in the Banquet. Here we have eaten, we have drunk, we have tasted your goodness. May the joy we find in this meal together lift up our hearts. May we carry your laughter to the world around us. May we live out that foolishness called love wherever we go. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

May the Lord grant you a joyful heart and a holy sense of humor. May the Lord's gift of faith be renewed in you each day and shared with others. May the Lord teach you to live in the moment, looking neither to the past with regret, nor the future with apprehension. Let the Lord's love be your guide and your prayer. In the name of the Father ✠ and the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

God Bless You Merry Sinner

(sung to the tune of "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen")

- 1 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.

- 2 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.

- 3 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.

SENDING WORDS

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in laughter. Go in grace. Keep the Lord in your heart and a smile on your face. You are the body of Christ raise up to serve in the world. Go in peace. Share the good news!

Thanks be to God, and we will!

POSTLUDE

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