



Second Sunday ☺ of Easter

Holy Humor Sunday

April 23, 2017

Holy Communion

**Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
Pam Illick, Pastor (seriously, that's no joke!)**



Welcome to all – especially visitors!!! **It is no accident that you are here today!** You are an answer to our prayer. We have been praying for you, and believe that God has brought you here because God wants to touch your life.

Today we are celebrating God's gift of laughter!

The idea of setting aside one Sunday each year to celebrate God's gift of laughter and joy may be new to you, but it's got a long and rich history in many congregations around the world.

Laughter Sunday (also known as *Holy Humour Sunday*, *Hilarity Sunday*, *God's Laughter Sunday*, *Bright Sunday* or *Holy Fools Sunday*) has its roots in a number of different Christian traditions.

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.

The observance of *Risus Paschalis* was officially outlawed by Pope Clement X in the 17th century. Perhaps people were having too much fun.

The Gospels tell us over and over again of the joy which comes to us through Christ. When Jesus was around, lives were changed, the sick were healed, the sorrowful began to laugh with joy. The good news is that this joy is now given to us.

Holy Communion: All God's Children are welcome to come to God's Table! It is at the Table we receive Christ's body and blood through the bread and wine. This holy meal renews and nourishes our spirit. Come and eat.

Bulletin, noun;

1. something to read during the sermon;
2. a fan used in churches without air conditioning;
3. your receipt for attending church.

HOWDY!!! - Take a moment to check in on Facebook!
Feel free to share your worship experience via social media, too.

PRAYLUDE & QUIET MEDICATION

GETTIN' EVERYBODY TOGETHER

**Please stand as you are able.*

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS



None of us likes to look foolish, but which is sillier? Chasing after the world and all its gaudy trinkets which flatter our souls, or being a 'fool for Christ', imitating him in service to others, offering ourselves in love and joy to the world? Let us admit to God the foolish choices we make each and every day, as we pray, saying,

**You know better than we do, Amused God,
what important people we believe we are.
Believing we have to be serious all the time,
we miss out on the joy of your creation.
Choosing to feast on the pain of the world,
we skip the picnic offered in paradise.
Clinging to the despair which is our best friend,
we ignore Jesus, who can bring us home to your heart.**

**Forgive us, Heart of Joy,
and make us open to the startling, and upside-down, ways
in which you work.**

**Fill us with Easter's laughter;
fill us with your healing joy;
fill us with the love poured into us
through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.**

Through the Holy Spirit, we are gifted with joy.
We are sent forth to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bring healing to the broken,
to anoint everyone with the oil of gladness.
Thanks be to God, we are forgiven.

Amen.

— written by Thom Shuman, on his excellent [Lectionary Liturgies](#) blog.

*PEACE

We greet one other with the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

***GATHERING SONG *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee* (ELW 836)**

*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.
Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

THE FIRST READING



"He's not in there! Oh, wait - he's changed his status to 'risen' "

Please stand as you are able.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Music: Caribbean traditional

GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

P The holy gospel according to St. John.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



Church Mice.

SERMION

HER ☺F THE DAY: *Hark The Herald Angel Said*

(Tune: Hark the Herald Angels Sing)

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!”

*CREED

- ☐ We believe in God, who made us in His image.
- ☑ We live, we love, we laugh, because we are like Him.
- ☐ We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Lord and Savior.
- ☑ He had the last laugh on the devil when He rose from the dead.
- ☐ We believe in the Holy Spirit, co-equal and co-eternal with the Father and the Son.
- ☑ Our counselor, our guide, our motivator – He is our joy!

PRAYERS ☺F THE PE☺PLE

- ☐ Amid the laughter and celebration of this day, it's good that we pause and remember that many carry burdens that need not be carried alone.

God of grace, God of love and laughter, we thank you that we are so wondrously created and that we are made for relationship with you and with one another. We thank you for laughter with friends and loved ones. We thank you for the laughter of children, and the song it creates in our hearts.

By your great unending love, you inspire in us a spirit of imagination and creativity. Help us to use that spirit to play more, to laugh more, and to create beauty in every way possible. Remind us to laugh out loud, for doing so will heal some of the wounds within us. Not all, but some.

God, we pray for those who cannot find their laughter today. For those who are grieving, or suffering illness of body, mind or spirit...for those who are lonely and in need of someone to share their time and friendship... for those who have not yet moved into the season and spirit of Easter and find themselves stuck in the gloom of Good Friday. Today we pray especially for and those we name aloud and in our hearts.

- ☐ May these and the troubles of all your people be soothed, blessed, and comforted by your holy presence. May we each find the laughter within us that sets our spirits free, and in that freedom, may we take your love into every part of our lives. These and all the prayers of our hearts we offer now in the name of Jesus.

☑ Amen.

posted by Sue on the [RevGalBlogPals](#) blog.

PRAYER FOR FISHERS ☺F PE☺PLE

MEAL

☺FFERING

*Message on the outside sign of Faith Temple Church, Sioux Falls, SD:
"We welcome all denominations — \$1, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, \$100."*

THANK AND TEL

*☺FFERTORY *Please stand as you are able.*

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
 bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
 fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
 nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
 pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

***☺FFERING PRAYER**

- A** Most loving God,
- C** as you have given yourself to us in Christ Jesus, now let us give ourselves to you. We give you our bodies that they may be vessels for your Spirit; we give you our souls that they may be made pure by your grace; we give you our hearts that we may always love you and we give you our minds that they may be always be full of your wisdom. Receive all that we offer and use it for your honor and glory. Amen



***DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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 our thanks and praise.

***PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,
 that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,
 al - mighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection
 of our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself
 to take a - way our sin, who in dying has destroyed death,
 and in ris - ing has brought us to e - ter - nal life.
 And so, with Mary Magdalene and Pe - ter and all the witnesses of the

res - ur - rec - tion, with earth and sea and all their crea - tures,
and with angels and archangels, cheru - bim and ser - a - phim,
we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

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*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P In the night in which he was handed over,
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.

You smiled and the sun burst through the shadows of chaos;
you chuckled, and the platypus splashed in creation's fountain;
you laughed, and all that is good and beautiful was given shape by
you, Imaginative God.

Snickering at the feeble attempts of the evil one,
you showed us how to resist temptation;
giggling at sin's desperate desire to hold on to us, you released us
by your love;
howling with laughter at death's foolish belief that the tomb could
hold you,
you burst forth into the kingdom as the stars peeled with joy,
Laughing Jesus.

As you fill us with new life, may we delight in sharing it with
others;
as you tell us the good news which can never be taken from us,
may we rejoice in offering it to the broken, the sad, the lonely;
as you tickle us with grace,
may we give it away with laughter on our lips and joy in our
hearts, Spirit of Easter.

C Amen

*LORD'S PRAYER

P God in Community, Holy Three in One, our hearts overflow with
wonder as we lift the prayer Jesus has taught us,

C 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

☞ Now let us feast this glorious day on Christ, the bread of heaven.
Hallelujah!

Please be seated.

COMMUNION

- **To receive communion**, come up the center aisle at the direction of the ushers. We offer both common cup and individual cups which are filled from the pouring chalice. Cups are available on the table at the head of the aisle. After receiving the bread, proceed to the pouring chalice or the common cup to receive the wine. Return to your seat by the side aisle.
- **If you prefer to receive a blessing**, come forward with your bulletin.
- **If you would like to have communion brought to your seat**, please indicate your wish to one of the ushers, and the pastor will come to you.

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.

*TABLE BLESSING

☞ The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve us in eternal life.

☞ Amen.

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

☞ Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of heaven to nourish your people. You fill us with the gift of joy and laughter through your Holy Spirit. Send us forth as hopeful and joyful witnesses to Jesus' resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

☞ Amen.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS *(Please be seated.)*

*BLESSING

☞ May the Lord, grant you a joyful heart and a holy sense of humor.
May the Holy Spirit give you the gift of faith,
to be renewed and shared with others each day.
May the Lord teach you to live this moment only,
looking neither to the past with regret,
nor to the future with apprehension.
May love be your guide, and your life a prayer.
In the name of the Father and the Son ✝ and the Holy Spirit.

☞ Amen.

Recessional hymn, *noun*;

1. *The final hymn of a Church service; this hymn is usually the quietest of all hymns because so many parishioners have already left before it is sung.*

*SENDING SONG: *Go Tell It On the Mountain*

Chorus: Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere,
Go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus is alive.

While soldiers watched the gravesite
that quiet Sunday dawn
there came a big commotion
and then the storm was gone. (Chorus)

The women found no body
their spices to anoint;
instead they found an angel,
God's message to appoint. (Chorus)

Go from where He isn't
to where He said He'd be.
An Easter-time reunion:
the hills of Galilee. (Chorus)

*DISMISSAL

A Go in laughter; go in grace.

Keep the Lord in your heart and a smile on your face

C We will. Thanks be to God!

(Please be seated.)

☺STLUDE

A PROMISE IS A PROMISE

LET'S EAT LUNCH AND HAVE SOME FUN!!!



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THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

Don't let worry kill you off – let the Church help.

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the Social Hall. Music will follow.

Bertha Belch, a missionary from Africa will be speaking at our next TED Talk. Come and hear Bertha Belch all the way from Africa.

Did you hear that we will be starting a softball team? Practice begins this week! Our first game is in 3 weeks on Sunday at 3. Come watch us kill Christ the King.

Try heeling our services. You won't get better.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community.

Prayers needed for a neighboring pastor who was in a car accident one night. He was driving on a country road and wrecked his car. A farmer stopped and asked the pastor, "Are you OK?" The pastor said, "Yes, I'm fine. I had the Lord riding with me." The farmer said, "Well, you better let Him ride with me because you're gonna kill Him."

Please pray for Joe and Dave: They were in a head on car crash. Both men were fine, but the cars were damaged beyond repair. When they realized that they were OK, Dave said, "It must be a sign from God that we should be friends and live in peace." Joe agreed and Dave said, "Here's another miracle. This bottle of wine survived the car crash, it must be a sign that we should celebrate." Joe drank half the bottle and handed it back to Dave to finish but Dave put the cap back on. Joe said, "Aren't you going to have any?" Dave said, "I'll wait until the police do their report."

STEWARDSHIP

Report from the Property Committee: A painter got a contract to paint the outside of the church, but because he was a greedy guy, he decided to thin the paint with some water. When he was almost done painting the church, thunder rumbled in the skies and rain washed all of the paint away. He got on his knees and looked up at the heavens and said, "What should I do?" A voice bellowed out, "Repaint, repaint and thin no more."

New Carpet: There will be a discussion in May as to how we might raise funds for the new carpet. All who wish to do something on the carpet should come forward and do so now.

SUGGESTIONS FOR OUR SIGN OUT FRONT

- Don't give up. Moses was once a basket case.
- Lent is not the fuzz in your naval.
- Honk if you love Jesus. Txt while driving if u want 2 meet him.
- Prevent truth decay! Brush up on the Bible.

WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO

A man had been shipwrecked on a remote island in the Pacific, and was alone for 20 years. When a ship finally arrived, his rescuers were impressed with the three buildings he had built and asked him about them. "Well," the man replied, "this is my house, and that building over there is my church. It's a wonderful church and I hate to leave it." "And what is the third building yonder?" a rescuer asked. "Oh, that is the church I used to go to," the man replied.

FAITH STUDY

Richard, my friend's little grandson came home from Sunday School and I asked him what they had studied. His reply was, 'Nothing.' So I asked him, 'Didn't you study Jesus?' Richard's reply was, 'No, he wasn't even there.'

EVANGELISM

It's not just for the church office, but for at home too!



"If telemarketers call, invite them to church."

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

– PRAYER AND SUPPORT –

Remember to write the name(s) of persons for whom prayer is needed on the pad in the rear of the church! The names will be included in the Intercessory Prayers this morning. If you forget to put someone's name on the list, there is an opportunity to say the name during the prayers.

Special prayers for: Congregations who are in redevelopment and renewal.

College Students: Remember Madi Kreitz in your prayers!

– UPCOMING EVENTS –

All items for the **May newsletter** are due Monday, April 24 at 9 p.m.

Lunch Bunch goes out on Sundays after worship for lunch (except on Sundays when we have Coffee & Conversation). Next Sunday we will meet at Applebee's.. We invite all to be with us for this time of fellowship as we enjoy a meal together.



– FAITH FORMATION –

Save the Date! Vacation Bible School is going to be June 9-11! Watch for more details in the coming weeks. We need "all hands on deck" to plan, teach, feed, pray, set up, clean up and invite everyone you know!!! Get ready to discover how we are **Created by God and Built for a Purpose!!!**

- STEWARDSHIP -

To date twenty-six piglets have been funded for ELCA's Always Being Made New Campaign for World Hunger with total donations of \$796.50.



- April 23-29 -

Today.....12:00 p.m. - Luncheon
 Monday.....6:30 p.m. - Redevelopment Team
 Monday.....9:00 p.m. - May Newsletter Items Due
 Wednesday.....7:00 p.m. - Creative Christian Ladies

- April 30–May 6 -

Sunday.....9:30 a.m. - Children’s Class & Adult Forum
 Sunday.....10:45 a.m. - Holy Communion
 Monday.....6:30 p.m. - Evangelism Committee
 Tuesday.....6:00 p.m. - Daisy Scouts
 Tuesday.....6:30 p.m. - Redevelopment Team
 Wednesday.....7:00 p.m. - Creative Christian Ladies
 Friday.....6:00 p.m. - Brownie Scouts



- Our Stewardship -

	Current Fund
Last Week	\$769
Year to Date	\$12,375
Attendance Last Sunday - 74	
Does Not Include E-Giving Offerings	

**- Current Income/Expenses -
To February 28**

Income	\$9,298
Expenses	\$20,816
Deficit	(\$11,518)



The altar flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and are placed by Charlie and Ruth Strausbaugh in celebration of their anniversary.

Pastor Pam will be attending a liturgical conference at Valparaiso University in Indiana this week. Pastor Ray Shriver will lead worship on April 30. In the event there is a need for pastor support during the week, Pastor Shriver will be available at 717-765-4553.

- SERVING THIS MORNING -

Ministers.....The Disciples of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
 (1 Peter 2:4-10)

Pastor Pam Illick Presiding Minister
 Teresa Papoutsis Assisting Minister
 Eric Leaper.....Lector
 Hailey Sherman Acolyte
 Alexis Kramer-Foose..... Crucifer
 Brenda Rice, Jenny Rice, Rhonda Rice Musicians
 Joanne Crider..... Usher
 June Ecker..... Usher
 Marie Seidel..... Usher
 Linda Weddle..... Usher
 Joanne Crider..... Altar Care
 Earl Duffey Church Lock-up
 Sally Berklite & June Ecker Offering Tellers

- SERVING APRIL 30 -

Pastor Ray Shriver..... Presiding Minister
 Ruth Strausbaugh..... Assisting Minister
 Hailey Sherman Lector
 Taylor Sherman Acolyte
 Katherine Dennis..... Crucifer
 Brenda Rice, Jenny Rice, Rhonda Rice Musicians
 Joanne Crider..... Usher
 June Ecker..... Usher
 Marie Seidel..... Usher
 Linda Weddle..... Usher
 Joanne Crider..... Altar Care
 Earl Duffey Church Lock-up
 Earl Duffey & Rusty Kreitz..... Offering Tellers

Seven Faith Practices

**Pray
 Study
 Worship
 Invite
 Encourage
 Serve
 Give**

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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- Our Mission -

The mission of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of Rouzerville, Pennsylvania is to build, strengthen, and increase our faith community to better love and serve God – and the world community – with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.



- Our Vision -

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church is a flourishing, Spirit-filled, Christ-centered home for all.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.