

## SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

### CHURCHES RESURRECT AN OLD EASTER CUSTOM

Many American churches are resurrecting an 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, including "Bright Sunday" (the Sunday after Easter), 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 (like Augustine, Gregory of Nyssa, and John Chrysostom) 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.

In 1988 the Fellowship of Merry Christians began encouraging churches and prayer groups to resurrect Bright Sunday celebrations and call it "Holy Humor Sunday," with the theme: "Jesus is the LIFE of the party."

Many churches from different traditions responded enthusiastically. Holy Humor Sunday services are bringing back large crowds to churches on a Sunday when church attendance typically drops dramatically.

If you Google "Holy Humor Sunday" on the Internet, you'll be amazed at how widespread Holy Humor Sunday celebrations on the Sunday after Easter have become among churches of all traditions. It's clearly a movement of the Holy Spirit to shore up belief in the resurrection of Jesus.

Both the religious and secular press are now reporting on this phenomenon.

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## ***Geraniums for*** ***Geraniums for*** ***Pentecost***

If you would like to sponsor a geranium for Pentecost on **June 8**, please complete the form below.

**The cost is \$8.00 per plant.** Please place the form with your payment in the offering plate or mail to the church office.

**The deadline for ordering is Sunday, May 18.**

**Please make checks payable to St. Mark Lutheran Church and put "Altar Guild" on the memo line.**

**The geraniums will be planted in the flower beds of the church on Monday, June 9.**

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

☐ To the Glory of God

~~~~~

Presented by \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Total number of geraniums ordered

Amount of Check: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# Altar Flower Sponsorship Form

Please check the one that applies to your sponsorship and complete the following statements:

- ☐ In memory of \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ In honor of \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ To the Glory of God

Sponsor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Requested: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Willing to Share

Circle Payment Enclosed:

\$25.00 One Vase of Flowers

\$50.00 Both Vases of Flowers



***Checks should be made payable to St. Mark Lutheran Church and note "Altar Guild" in the memo line. Place in the offering plate or mail directly to the church office***



Please check any that apply!

- ☐ Flowers will be picked up by sponsor.
- ☐ Deliver one vase of flowers to shut-in or hospital
- ☐ Deliver both vases of flowers to shut-in or hospital

Please contact Connie Kuntz at 717-503-5244 with any questions.

THANK YOU!

LET'S TAKE A HOLY HUMOR JOKE BREAK!!

-WORD SEARCH-

## Happy

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
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| M | L | I | H | P | V | S | B | E | A | M | I | N | G | U | Z | R |
| W | I | O | H | V | F | Q | J | L | R | G | N | R | K | Y | F | R |
| X | K | N | L | G | L | O | W | I | N | G | U | H | I | C | E | H |
| V | I | L | R | M | O | J | H | M | S | B | L | E | S | S | E | D |
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| J | S | W | U | M | Y | D | M | B | S | C | D | C | P | L | A | E |
| B | E | L | O | V | Z | E | Z | C | A | R | G | S | L | O | T | N |
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cloud nine  
ecstatic  
glowing  
gleeful  
jolly

delighted  
Cheerful  
beaming  
Content  
merry

fortunate  
tickled  
blessed  
elated

thrilled  
pleased  
radiant  
joyful

## **-ANNOUNCEMENTS-**

### **HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY**

Today, **April 27**, during worship, we will have our regular elements of worship with fun and creative moments and experiences mixed in. We will use God's gifts of laughter and joy to enjoy the new life that Christ gave us through the Easter miracle as we gather in worship, celebration, and praise! Let's laugh at the devil through our humor! Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

### **MONTHLY SUNDAYS TO BENEFIT NEW HOPE MINISTRIES**

Here are the items for April, May, and June:

**April 27**  
**May 25**  
**June 8**

**Canned Fruit or Fruit Cups**  
**Feminine Hygiene Products**  
**Ketchup and Mustard**

### **PRAYER LIST UPDATING**

The current Prayer List will be emptied **at the end of today**. If you would like an individual's name to remain on the Prayer List, please contact Karen in the church office no later 10:00 am Monday morning.

### **YARD SALE IS BACK!**

**Sell your stuff or come to shop!** Join us on Saturday, **May 24** from 9:00 am--? for a yard sale on our back lawn. Anyone is welcome to set up starting at 7:00 am. Mechanicsburg Borough does not permit sales before 9:00 am.

### **BOOK CLUB -NEW!**

Join us on Thursday, **May 15**, at **1:00 pm** in the parlor to discuss *The Story of Arthur Truelove* by Elizabeth Berg.

Suggested book is a novel by Elizabeth Berg, *The Story of Arthur Truluv*.

This is a heartwarming novel about two unlikely people who find a connection. Arthur is a kind caring man who visits the cemetery daily to have an imaginary conversation with his late wife. There he meets Maddy, a troubled teen hiding from school. Together they find their way back from loss and loneliness to a different kind of life.

We look forward to conversation and fellowship with you. We encourage you to share and invite a friend.

The book is available through the library or Thrift books.

## THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK

**Sunday, April 27**

**HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY**  
**CANNED FRUIT/FRUIT CUPS FOR**  
**NEW HOPE**  
Worship Service  
Church Sunday School  
Children's SS & Choir  
Worship Svc

**Monday, April 28**

**7:00 pm**

**German Group**

**Tuesday, April 29**

**Wednesday, April 30**

**11:00 am**

**Bible Study**

**6:00 pm**

**Bell Choir**

**7:00 pm**

**Adult Choir**

**Thursday, May 1**

**6:45 pm**

**Youth & Family Ministry**

**7:00 pm**

**Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros**

**Friday, May 2**

**3:00 pm**

**Violin Lessons**

**Saturday, May 3**

**Sunday, May 4**

**8:30 am**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**9:45 am**

**Worship Service-Communion**

**9:45 am**

**Church Sunday School**

**11:00 am**

**Children's SS & Choir**

**Worship Svc.-Communion**

**LESSONS:**

**MAY 4, 2025**

**FIRST READING**

**Acts 9:1-20**

**PSALM**

**Psalm 30**

**SECOND READING**

**Revelation 5:11-14**

**GOSPEL**

**John 21:1-19**



### Flowers This Week

In memory of Donald C. Fissel by Susan Fissel.

### ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORS NEEDED

Altar flower sponsors are needed for **May 4**. Please use the form located in the bulletin or at entrances to the church. Please contact Connie Kuntz at 717-503-5244 with questions.

### TODAY'S ASSISTANTS

|                     |                             |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Assisting Minister: | Alma Gimbel                 |
| Lay Reader:         | Karen Fisher                |
| Ushers:             | Marlin Brown, Sandy Brown   |
| Acolyte:            | Alma Gimbel                 |
| Altar Guild:        | Andi Sassaman, Cindy Larkin |

### POSTLUDE

*Trumpet Tune on "This Joyful Eastertide"*

D. Lasky

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### \*DISMISSAL

- A May our God of laughter and love fill you with hope and joy forever. May your hope in Christ be stronger than all fear.
- C Thanks be to God.

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

## **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 hallelujah,  
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.

**LET'S TAKE A HOLY HUMOR JOKE BREAK!!**



**\*BLESSING**

P May the blessings of joy, laughter, and Holy Humor be with you both now and forever.

C Amen.



## **\*THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.

## **\*THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

**P** Let us pray.

**P** Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being.

For your Word of life, O God,

**C** we give you thanks and praise.

**P** By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you.

For your Word of life, O God,

**C** we give you thanks and praise.

**P** Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love.

For your Word of life, O God,

**C** we give you thanks and praise.

**P** Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

**C** Amen.

**\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

**JESUS LOVES ME**

Jesus loves me, this I know,  
Though my hair is white as snow  
Though my sight is growing dim,  
Still, He bids me trust in Him.

**(CHORUS)**

**YES, JESUS LOVES ME. YES, JESUS LOVES ME.  
YES, JESUS LOVES ME, THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO.**

Though my steps are oh, so slow,  
With my hand in His I'll go.  
On through life, let come what may,  
He'll be there to lead the way.

**(CHORUS)**

When the nights are dark and long,  
In my heart He puts a song...  
Telling me in words so clear,  
"Have no fear, for I am near."

**(CHORUS)**

When my work on earth is done,  
And life's victories have been won.  
He will take me home above,  
Then I'll understand His love..

**(CHORUS)**

I love Jesus, does He know?  
Have I ever told Him so?  
Jesus loves to hear me say,  
That I love Him every day.

**(CHORUS)**

**\*OFFERTORY**  
*Easter Chimes*

C. Demorst/arr R. Wilson

**OFFERING**

**LET'S TAKE A HOLY HUMOR JOKE BREAK!!**

**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

P We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us, in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

C **Amen.**

## **A Communion of Saints**

### **Affirmation of Humor**

*Please read responsively:*

- P We believe with the Bible that  
C ***“there is a time to weep and a time to laugh.”***
- P We believe with Chrysostom that  
C ***“laughter has been implanted in our souls.”***
- P We believe with Aquinas that there is a time for  
C ***“playful deeds and jokes.”***
- P We believe with Luther that  
C ***“You have as much laughter as you have faith.”***
- P We believe with Calvin that  
C ***“we are nowhere forbidden to laugh.”***
- P We believe with Francis De Sales that  
C ***“humor is a foundation for reconciliation.”***
- P We believe with Wesley that  
C ***“A sour religion is the devil’s religion.”***
- P We believe with Kierkegaard that  
C ***“Humor is intrinsic to Christianity.”***
- P We believe with Dostoevsky that  
C ***“If a person laughs well they are a good person.”***

- P We believe with Chesterton that  
C ***“A good joke is the closest thing we have to divine revelation.”***
- P We believe with Bonhoeffer that  
C ***“Ultimate seriousness is not without a dose of humor.”***
- P We believe with Fulton Sheen that  
C ***“The only time laughter is wicked is when it is turned against he who gave it.”***
- P We believe with Flannery O’Conner that  
C ***“Christianity is a strangely cheery religion.”***
- P We believe with Elton Trueblood,  
C ***“Never trust a theologian without a sense of humor.”***
- P We believe with Charles Schultz that  
C ***“Humor is proof that everything is going to be alright with God nevertheless.”***
- P We believe with Krister Stendhal that  
C ***“humor, along with irony, forms a safeguard against idolatry.”***
- P We believe with Eric Gritsch that  
C ***“Humor is thus anchored in a self-knowledge that indicates one’s limitations.”***

—Compiled by Rev. Chris Anderson with help from the Joyful Noiseletter,

## It Came Upon a Sunrise Bright

(Tune: "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear")

*It came upon a sunrise bright,  
that glorious promise anew,  
That Jesus, though he was crucified,  
now lives for me and for you.*

*Peace on the earth, goodwill to all,  
from Heaven rejoicing on high,  
The world with joyful dancing  
shares the news that He is alive.*

*The women with their spices came,  
the body to anoint,  
They found the tomb was empty  
and they heard an angel appoint.*

*The time, the place, the reason why,  
you'll find your Jesus on high,  
And then in joy the woman shared  
the news that He is alive.*

LET'S TAKE ANOTHER HOLY HUMOR JOKE BREAK!!

# SERMON

## NOISY SUNDAY COLLECTION

### CHILDREN'S SERMON

#### **\*GOSPEL: 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."*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 20<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C** Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>19</sup>When 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." <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

<sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

<sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So 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."

<sup>26</sup>A 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." <sup>27</sup>Then 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." <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But 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.

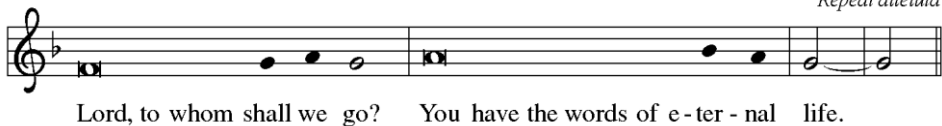
**C** Praise to you, O Christ.



## \*ALLELUIA VERSE



*Repeat alleluia*



A Laugh Is...

A **SMILE** that **BURSTS**

An **instant** **VACATION**

A day **not** **WASTED**

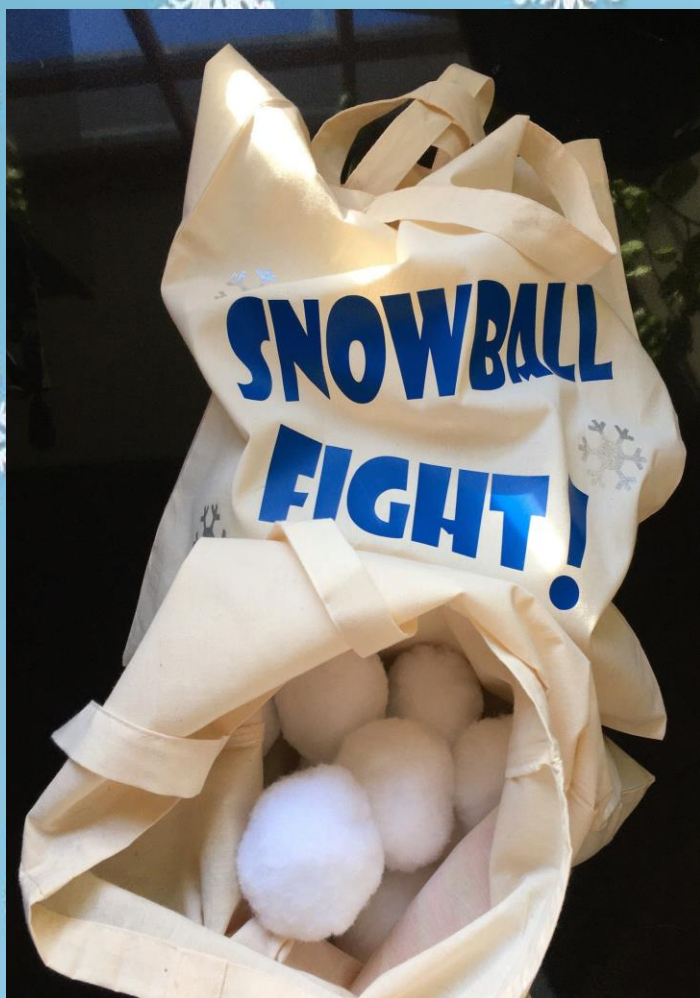
**MUSIC** to the **SOUL**

A Cheap **MEDICINE**



The More you **LAUGH**  
the More you **LIVE**

**HATS, GLOVES, MITTENS, SCARVES REQUIRED**



*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.*

<sup>4</sup> John 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, <sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

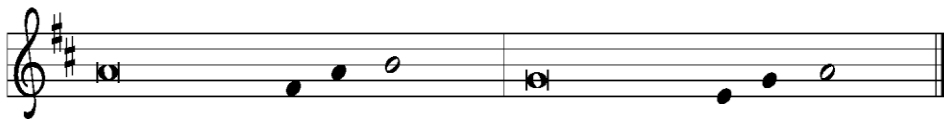
To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, <sup>6</sup> and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

<sup>7</sup>Look! 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.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

*(Please sing the Psalm responsively. Choir the regular print; congregation the **bold print**.)*



<sup>14</sup> The LORD is my strength <sup>1</sup> and my song,  
and he has become <sup>1</sup> my salvation.

<sup>15</sup> There is a sound of exulta- | tion and victory  
in the tents | of the righteous:

(Continued next page.)

<sup>16</sup> “The right hand of the <sup>1</sup> LORD has triumphed!  
The right hand of the LORD is exalted! The right hand of the <sup>1</sup> LORD  
has triumphed!”

<sup>17</sup> **I shall not <sup>1</sup> die, but live,  
and declare the works <sup>1</sup> of the LORD.**

<sup>18</sup> The LORD has pun- <sup>1</sup> ished me sorely,  
but he did not hand me o- <sup>1</sup> ver to death.

<sup>19</sup> **Open for me the <sup>1</sup> gates of righteousness;  
I will enter them; I will offer thanks <sup>1</sup> to the LORD.**

<sup>20</sup> “This is the gate <sup>1</sup> of the LORD;  
he who is righ- <sup>1</sup> teous may enter.”

<sup>21</sup> **I will give thanks to you, for you <sup>1</sup> answered me  
and have become <sup>1</sup> my salvation.**

<sup>22</sup> The same stone which the build- <sup>1</sup> ers rejected  
has become the chief <sup>1</sup> cornerstone.

<sup>23</sup> **This is <sup>1</sup> the LORD’s doing,  
and it is marvelous <sup>1</sup> in our eyes.**

<sup>24</sup> On this day the <sup>1</sup> LORD has acted;  
we will rejoice and be <sup>1</sup> glad in it.

<sup>25</sup> **Hosanna, <sup>1</sup> LORD, hosanna!  
LORD, send us <sup>1</sup> now success.**

<sup>26</sup> Blessed is he who comes in the name <sup>1</sup> of the LORD;  
we bless you from the house <sup>1</sup> of the LORD.

<sup>27</sup> **God is the LORD; he has <sup>1</sup> shined upon us;  
form a procession with branches up to the horns <sup>1</sup> of the altar.**

<sup>28</sup> “You are my God, and <sup>1</sup> I will thank you;  
you are my God, and I <sup>1</sup> will exalt you.”

<sup>29</sup> **Give thanks to the LORD, for <sup>1</sup> he is good;  
his mercy en- <sup>1</sup> dures forever.**

## LET'S TAKE A HOLY HUMOR JOKE BREAK!

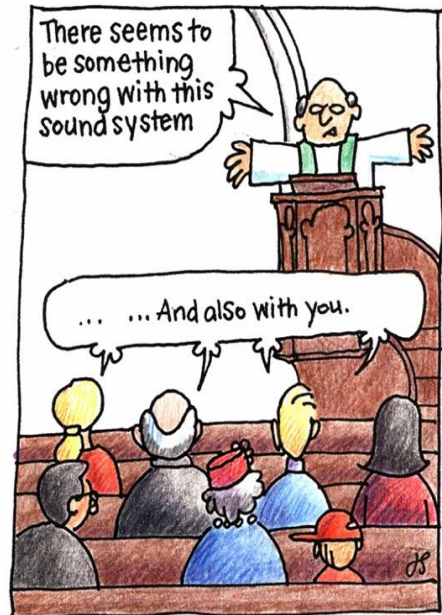
### FIRST LESSON: Acts 5:27-32

*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*

R      A reading from Acts.

<sup>27</sup> When they had brought [the apostles,] they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, <sup>28</sup> saying, "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." <sup>29</sup> But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. <sup>30</sup> The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. <sup>31</sup> God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. <sup>32</sup> And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

R      The word of the Lord.  
C      Thanks be to God.



## DECK THE HALLS

*Deck the halls with Easter lilies,  
Fa-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia!*

*Dance a jig and sing the sillies,  
Fa-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia!*

*At the devil, mean, old bloke,  
Fa-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia!*

*On whom God has played a joke,  
Fa-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia!*

*Devil thought he'd won the battle,  
Fa-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia!*

*Pranced around high in the saddle,  
Fa-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia!*

*Did not know God's special plan,  
Fa-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia!*

*To resurrect the Son of Man,  
Fa-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia!*

*Merry Christians rejoice and sing,  
Fa-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia!*

*Now's the triumph of our King,  
Fa-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia!*

*Lord of Life is ris'n this day,  
Fa-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia!*

*Let the world rejoice and say,  
Fa-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia!*

*Songs of joy to Christ our head,  
Fa-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia!*

*Lives again who once was dead,  
Fa-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia!*

*Life was purchased by his loss,  
Fa-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia!*

*Died our death upon the cross,  
Fa-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia!*

## **ANTHEM**

*Immoral, Impossible*

Words by Peter I. Fifield  
The Julliard School

### **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** Let us pray.

**P** 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.

**C** Amen.

### **\*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.

**LET'S TAKE A HOLY HUMOR JOKE BREAK!!**



**\*HYMN**

*(Please bring items for New Hope to the altar during the singing of this hymn.)*

## **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,  
Graveclothes 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!*



FLECKER

"The Pastor keeps referring to  
'this morning's text' ... but which one?"



## **\*BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

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

P 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.**

P 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!**

P 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.**

P May God through the death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ forgive you all your sins and restore the joy of laughter within you today.

C **Amen.**

P In the face of a culture of death, a world of killing fields, a world of the walking dead, Christ is at the head of the resurrection parade transforming our tears of betrayal into tears of joy giving us dancing shoes for the resurrection party.

And this glittering joker who has danced in the dragon's jaws of death now dances with a dance that is full of nothing less than the fullness of God.

This is the dance of the new creation. This is the dance of life out of death and in this dance all that was broken all that was estranged all that was alienated all that was dislocated and disconnected is reconciled comes home, is healed, and is made whole.

## **\*GATHERING**

p CHRIST IS RISEN.

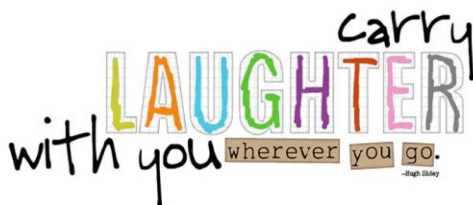
C **HE IS RISEN INDEED. ALLELUIA!**

## **INTROIT - VOCAL CHOIR**

*Just a Little Talk With Jesus!*

arr. J. Raney

ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
OF MECHANICSBURG  
SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 2025  
HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY



**GUESTS:**

*We would like to get to know you! Please complete a "Welcome to St. Mark Church" card found in the pew and place it in the offering plate. Thank you!*

**INTRODUCTION TO TODAY:**

***What is Holy Humor Sunday?***

*In the early church, the Sunday after Easter was observed by the faithful as a day of joy and laughter with parties and shenanigans to celebrate Jesus' resurrection. The custom of Bright Sunday, as it was called, came from the idea of some early church theologians that God played a joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead.*

**UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS:**

**Catherine of Siena, theologian, died 1380**

**Tuesday, April 29, 2025**

This theologian was the first woman among Roman Catholics to receive the title "Doctor [teacher] of the Church." Catherine was a Dominican sister known for her mystical visions as well as her work on behalf of people who were poor and imprisoned.

**Philip and James, Apostles**

**Thursday, May 1, 2025**

Philip was one of the first disciples of Jesus and called Nathanael to "come and see." He later responded to an Ethiopian official's request for teaching and baptism. Little is known of James, the son of Alphaeus, called "the Less" to distinguish him from another apostle named James.

**PRELUDE MUSIC**

*Hosanna, Loud Hosanna and The Day of Resurrection* arr. H. Metzger

Asterisk (\*) in the margin of this bulletin indicates the congregation shall rise as able.



ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
OF MECHANICSBURG  
SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 2025  
HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY



**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES**

8:30 am - Sanctuary & Zoom Blended Worship Service

9:45 am - Sunday Church School and Children's Choir

11:00 am-Worship Service

Rev. Marleen Griffith-Stull, Pastor

Pastor's Cell Phone: 878-295-2173

Pastor's Email: [revmarleen@stmarkmburg.com](mailto:revmarleen@stmarkmburg.com)

Karen Fisher, Office Manager

Karen's Cell Phone: 717-580-7507

Church Office: 717-766-4482

Office Email: [kfisher@stmarkmburg.com](mailto:kfisher@stmarkmburg.com)

Office Hours: 10:00 AM-1:00 PM - Monday through Thursday

Denise Hirn, Director of Children's Choir

Denise's Cell Phone: 717-802-1064

Email: [denisehirn@hotmail.com](mailto:denisehirn@hotmail.com)

Brad Hull, Director of Music

Brad's Cell Phone: 202-738-2795

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