

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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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!



Date: Saturday, May 9, 2026

Place: St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church
Back Yard

Set Up: Starts at 7:00 AM

Sell: 9:00 AM
Trinkets and Treasures

Tables: Available from church to use. You must carry outside and return. (*We are requesting a \$10.00 donation towards the purchase of a new sign for our back yard.*)

Refreshments:
Free-will donation.



Geraniums for
Geraniums for
Pentecost

If you would like to sponsor a geranium for Pentecost on **May 24**, 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 3.

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 May 26.

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

To the Glory of God

Presented by _____

_____ Total number of geraniums ordered

Amount of Check: \$_____

LET'S TAKE A HOLY HUMOR JOKE BREAK!!

-BIBLE FUN-

- What kind of lighting did Noah use on his ark?
- What is a shark's most favorite bible story?
- Who was awarded as the fastest runner in the race?
- What is the best possible way to study the Bible?
- What do they call pastors residing in Germany?
- How does Moses make his coffee every morning?
- Who was considered the smartest man in the Bible?
- Did Eve ever have a date with Adam?
- Who was the king encouraged by the queen when he was greatly troubled by writing on the wall?
- What's the reason Jonah didn't trust the ocean?
- Noah doesn't trust what kind of animal?
- Where could you find Solomon's temple?
- On the day before Christmas, what did Adam say?
- Where did the first baseball game in the Bible happen?
- Who do mice pray their wishes to?
- How come they didn't play cards on the Ark?

- Where did the Bible's most talkative people live?
- Which group of sharks do you typically find in heaven?
- What is the funny thing about forbidden fruits?
- Where in the Bible is the first mention of a tennis match?
- Noah most likely got milk from the cows on the ark. What did he get from the ducks?
- On his arc, how many of each animal did Moses bring?
- Before Boaz became married, what kind of guy was he?
- How long did Cain despise his brother?



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"Welcome to our church—even though you're sitting in our family pew . . ."

-ANNOUNCEMENTS-

HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY

Today, **April 12**, 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!

WinGS

WinGS monthly meeting will be held at **6:30 pm on Tuesday, April 14**. We welcome a guest from Joys of Life Scrapbooking who will give a presentation on Bible journaling. **ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND!**

LAWN TRACTOR

As of April 5, we have collected \$5,657.92 toward the mower. Our outstanding need is down to \$1,752.08. HALLELUJAH!

If you would like to help pay for the tractor, please use one of the "Special Offering" lines on your offering envelope and mark it "mower."

We will need to pay for the tractor when it is delivered so any outstanding balance will need to be funded by a line of credit loan from the bank.

MONTHLY SUNDAYS TO BENEFIT NEW HOPE MINISTRIES

The Social Ministry Outreach Committee designates one Sunday a month to collect items for New Hope Ministries. Here are the items for April, May, and June:

April 19

May 24 (Pentecost)

June 14

Peanut Butter and Jelly

Ketchup and Mustard

(Wear red and bring red)

Cleaning Products

COMMUNITY YARD SALE

Sell your stuff or come to shop! Join us on **Saturday, May 9, from 9:00 am--?** for a yard sale on our back lawn. Everyone is welcome to set up starting at 7:00 am. Mechanicsburg Borough does not permit sales before 9:00 am. If you would like to use one of our tables, we are requesting a donation of \$10.00. You must carry out and return. Refreshments will be available for a free-will offering.

BOOK CLUB

The next book club meeting is **May 12 at 1:00 PM**. The book is "*The Red Tent*," by Anita Diamont. *The Red Tent* (1997) is a compelling retelling of the biblical story from the perspective of Dinah, daughter of Jacob and Leah. The book explores Dinah's experiences as a woman in the biblical era, her time in the red tent, and her ill-fated love affair with Prince Shalem. The novel highlights family dynamics, female empowerment, and the lives of strong, distinct women within Jacob's household. Readers follow Dinah from childhood through her adulthood, including her work as a midwife in Egypt and her struggle to find independence from her family. Anita Diamant's narrative transforms a brief biblical account into a rich, intimate story of love, loss, and resilience.

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, Amazon, or Thrift books.

PRAYER LIST UPDATING

The current Prayer List will be emptied at the end of April. If you would like an individual's name to remain on the Prayer List, please contact Karen in the church office.

SPREAD TAN BARK—WE NEED YOU!!!

We will be spreading tan bark on **Saturday, May 16, beginning at 8:00, rain or shine**. Shovels, pitchforks, rakes and/or wheelbarrows are helpful to bring, but are not required. Please let Ben Yost know if you plan to be there. The more, the merrier, and the quicker it gets done!



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www.glasbergen.com

"Forgive us our debts as we forgive
those who call to harass us
about our debts..."

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK

Sunday, April 12	HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY
8:30 am	Worship Service
9:45 am	Church Sunday School
9:45 am	Children's SS & Choir
10:45 am	Youth & Family Ministry
12:00 pm	Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros
Monday, April 13	
2:00 pm	Violin Lessons
7:00 pm	German Group
Tuesday, April 14	
6:30 pm	WinGS
Wednesday, April 15	
11:00 am	Bible Study
6:00 pm	Bell Choir
7:00 pm	Adult Choir
Thursday, April 16	
2:30 pm	Violin Lessons
6:30 pm	Church Council
7:00 pm	Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros
Friday, April 17	
2:30 pm	Violin Lessons
Saturday, April 18	
6:30 pm	Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros
Sunday, April 19	THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
8:30 am	Worship Service-Communion
9:45 am	Church Sunday School
9:45 am	Children's SS & Choir
LESSONS:	APRIL 19, 2026
FIRST READING	Acts 2:14a 36-41
PSALM	Psalms 116:1-4, 12-19
SECOND READING	1 st Peter 1:17-23
GOSPEL	Luke 24:13-35



Flowers This Week

To the Glory of God, by the Altar Guild.

ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORS NEEDED

Altar flower sponsors are needed for **May 3, 17, and 31**. Please use the form located in the bulletins or at entrances to the church. Please contact Connie Kuntz at 717-503-5244 with questions.

TODAY'S ASSISTANTS

Assisting Minister:	Barb Yost
Lay Reader:	Scott Kreiger
Ushers:	Shannon Weaver, Connie Kuntz
Acolyte:	Katie Stull
Altar Guild:	Phyllis Mihalich, Muretta Yentzer

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

Postlude on Easter Hymns

arr. F. Fribel

*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.**

TAKE TIME TO BE FUNNY

(Tune: *Take Time to be Holy*)

*Take time to be funny, rejoice in the Lord
Let laughter explode and have fun with God's Word
For laughter is healing, gives strength to the weak
God loves to see smiles, for they lift up the meek.*

*Take time to be silly, it's good for the soul
Too many are somber, grabbing control.
Let go and let God's love wash over your soul
Heavenly transcendence can be your life's goal.*

*Old Sarah and Abram - a child they lacked
But God's angels promised and she birthed Isaac
In Hebrew that's "laughter", go check if you want
Genesis Seven-teen is where it is found.*

*For humor is holy, it sanctifies life,
Replenishes hope and oft softens advice
It undercuts sorrow, deflates haughty pride
So smile and hang on, and rejoice in life's ride.*

– authorship unknown

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.

*PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,



heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

In the night in which he was betrayed,
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.

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

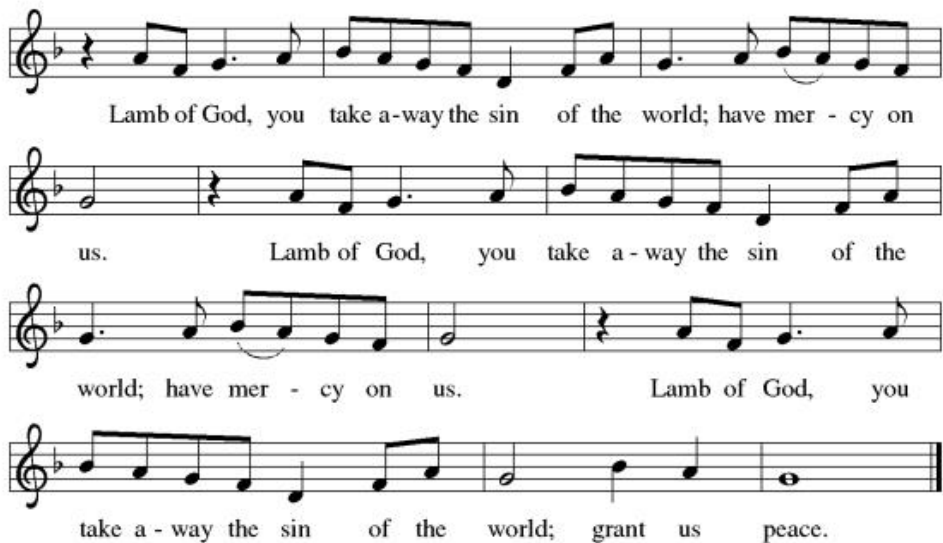
C Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

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.

***COMMUNION**

P Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
 us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
 take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION

All baptized, communion Christians are welcome to partake of the Holy Sacrament. We have gluten free bread available and white grape juice (in addition to our traditional homemade bread and red wine) for those who need or prefer those. Simply let the pastor or assisting minister know if you prefer something other than bread and wine. Remember that we are promised that Christ is truly present in, with, and under each element.

P The body of Christ, given for you.

C Amen.

A The blood of Christ, shed for you.

C Amen.

COMMUNION MUSIC

***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

I Know That My Redeemer Liveth

J. Pounds

OFFERING

LET'S TAKE A HOLY HUMOR JOKE BREAK!!

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A Merciful God,
C Receive our prayer.

P God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through 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,

LET’S TAKE ANOTHER HOLY HUMOR JOKE BREAK!!

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

Welcome, Happy Morning!



1 "Wel - come, hap - py morn - ing!" age to age shall say;
2 Mak - er and re - deem - er, life and health of all,
3 Source of all things liv - ing, you came down to die,
4 Free the souls long pris - oned, bound with Sa - tan's chain;



"Hell to - day is van - quished, heav'n is won to - day!"
God from heav'n be - hold - ing hu - man na - ture's fall,
plumbed the depths of hell to raise us up on high.
all that once had fall - en raise to life a - gain;



Christ, once dead, is liv - ing, God for - ev - er - more!
you, the true and on - ly Son of God a - bove,
Come then, true and faith - ful; come, ful - fill your word;
show your face in bright - ness, shine in ev - 'ry land



Him, their true cre - a - tor, all his works a - dore.
died as mor - tal man to save us by your love.
this is your third morn - ing: rise, O bur - ied Lord!
as in E - den's gar - den when the world be - gan.



"Wel - come, hap - py morn - ing!" age to age shall say.

Text: Venantius Honorius Fortunatus, 530–609; tr. John Ellerton, 1826–1893, adapt.
Music: FORTUNATUS, Arthur S. Sullivan, 1842–1900

SERMON

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 20th chapter.

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.

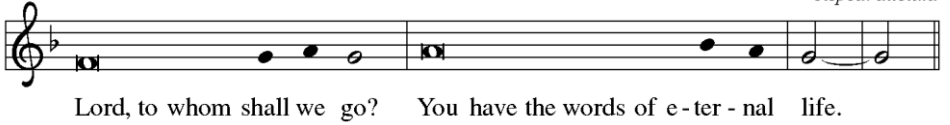
P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*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**



FASHION SHOW PARADE

SHOW OFF YOUR CRAZY COLORS

SHOW OFF YOUR AMAZING HATS

SECOND LESSON: 1st Peter 1:3-9

This epistle was written to encourage Christians experiencing hardships and suffering because of their faith in Christ. The letter opens by blessing God for the living hope we have through Christ's resurrection even amid difficult circumstances and surroundings.

R A reading from 1st Peter.

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead ⁴and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 16

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



¹ Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;
I have said to the Lord, “You are my Lord, my good above all other.”

² All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land,
upon those who are noble among the people.

(Continued next page)

- ³ But those who run after | other gods
shall have their troubles | multiplied.
- ⁴ Their libations of blood | will not offer,
nor take the names of their gods up- | on my lips.
- ⁵ O Lord, you are my portion | and my cup;
it is you who up- | hold my lot.
- ⁶ My boundaries enclose a | pleasant land;
indeed, I have a | goodly heritage.
- ⁷ I will bless the Lord who | gives me counsel;
my heart teaches me night | after night.
- ⁸ I have set the Lord al- | ways before me;
because he is at my right hand, I | shall not fall.
- ⁹ My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spir- | it rejoices;
my body also shall | rest in hope.
- ¹⁰ For you will not abandon me | to the grave,
nor let your holy one | see the pit.
- ¹¹ You will show me the | path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand
are pleasures for- | evermore.

LET'S TAKE A HOLY HUMOR JOKE BREAK!

FIRST LESSON: Acts 2:14a, 22-32

After the Holy Spirit comes to the apostles on Pentecost, Peter preaches the gospel to the gathered crowd. He tells them that Jesus, who obediently went to his death according to God's plan, was raised from the dead by God. Finally, he appeals to scripture, quoting Psalm 16:8-11, to show that Jesus is the Messiah: though crucified, the risen Jesus is now enthroned.

R A reading from Acts.

^{14a} Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]: ²² “Fellow Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know ²³ this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴ But God raised him up, having released him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵ For David says concerning him,

‘I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;

²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover, my flesh will live in hope.

²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades
or let your Holy One experience corruption.

²⁸ You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

²⁹ “Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne.

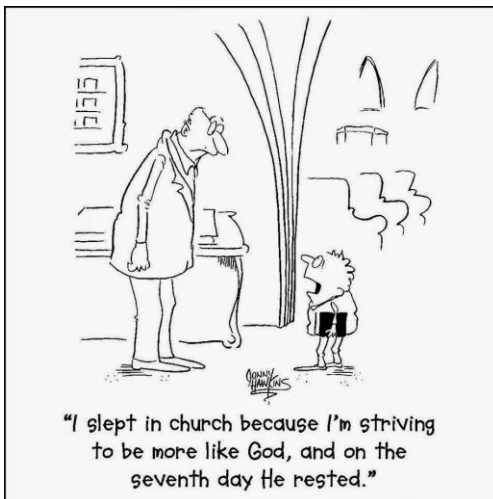
³¹ Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

‘He was not abandoned to Hades,
nor did his flesh experience corruption.’

³² “This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.”

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



*HYMN OF PRAISE

WHEN WE ARE TEMPTED

(To the tune of O Little Town Of Bethlehem)

When we are tempted in our pride
to dizzy heights of sin,
beneath our feet, O Lord, provide
a ripe banana skin,
and when we yearn at someone's head
to let a brickbat fly,
give us the grace to use instead
a well-aimed custard pie....

When cherished institutions stand
before your throne of grace,
with good intentions in each hand
and egg on every face,
teach us to query grand designs
with laughter born of tears,
for deep in earth's jam-buttly mines
your rainbow still appears...

~ written by Elizabeth Cosnett, in her collection *Hymns for Everyday Saints*.

ANTHEM

Because He Lives

Words by Bill and Gloria Gather/Music by W. Gaither

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

P 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.

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

WE LACK THE GIFT OF LAUGHTER

(To the tune of The Church's One Foundation)

We lack the gift of laughter.
Faith sits all pale and glum,
Hope dozes on a rafter,
and Love is stricken dumb
Come, Christ, into our drabness,
tell us that matchless jest
of life and resurrection,
your sweetest and your best.

We know the trick of tumbling,
red nose and redder face;
by virtues of our bumbling
ours is the jester's case.
Come, Christ, come down immortal,
teach us that matchless jest
of life and resurrection,
your sweetest and your best.

You joined our sad profession,
made good our foolishness,
brought clowning into fashion,
put on our joker's dress.
Come, Christ, come holy laughter,
to share that matchless jest
of life and resurrection,
your sweetest and your best.

Upon a foolish cross, Lord,
you hung to make us mirth;
but there you conquered loss, Lord,
old death became new birth.
Come everlasting joy; Christ,
confirm that matchless jest
of life and resurrection,
your sweetest and your best.

— Colin Gibson, Words © Hope Publishing Company,
from his collection of songs, *Reading the Signature*.

***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.

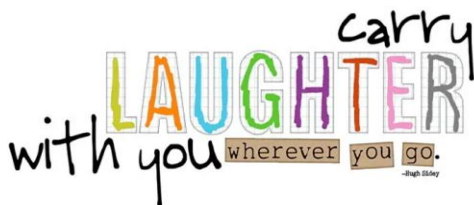
This is the dance of the new creation. This is the dance of life out of death and in this dance all that was broken all that was estranged all that was alienated all that was dislocated and disconnected is reconciled comes home, is healed, and is made whole.

***GATHERING**

p **CHRIST IS RISEN.**

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

ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF MECHANICSBURG
SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2026
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:

**Olavus Petri, Priest, Died 1552; Laurentius Petri, Bishop Of Uppsala, Died 1573; Renewers of the Church
Sunday, April 19, 2026**

These two brothers studied with Luther at the University of Wittenberg and then returned to their native Sweden to introduce the Lutheran reforms. Olavus published a catechism and hymnal; Laurentius was a professor who defended the office of bishop and later became one.

PRELUDE

Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing

arr. J.W. Kerr

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

LAUGHTER
IS THE
BEST
MEDICINE

ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF MECHANICSBURG
SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2026
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 (First Sunday of each month)

Rev. Marleen Griffith-Stull, Pastor

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Pastor's Email: revmarleen@stmarkmburg.com

Karen Fisher, Office Manager

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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

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Brad's Cell Phone: 202-738-2795

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