

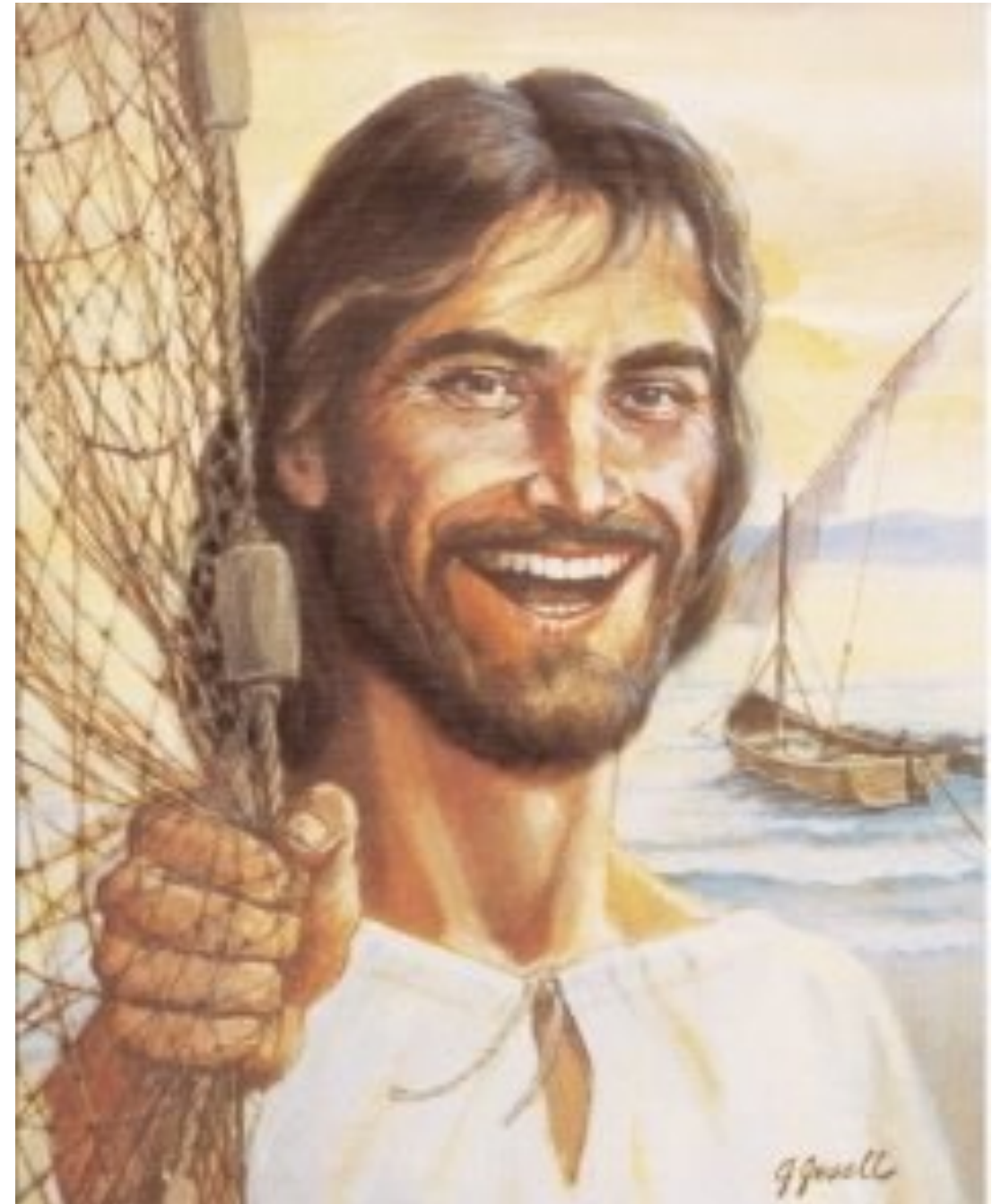
Holy Humor Word Search

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S	O	S	S	E	N	E	V	I	G	R	O	F	Z	L

- Alive
- Alleluia
- Beautiful Day
- Blessings
- Christ is risen
- He is risen indeed
- Easter
- Egg Jokes
- Forgiveness
- Fun
- Go in peace
- God Bless You,
Merry Sinner
- Gospel
- Grace
- Grave
- Hallelujah
- Happy
- Hark! The Herald
Angels Said
- Heart
- Holy Communion
- Holy Humor Sunday
- Holy Spirit
- Hymns
- Jesus
- Joy to the World
- Lamb of God
- Life
- Love
- Nicene Creed
- Offering
- Praise
- Pray
- Resurrection
- Salvation
- Shake Another Hand
- Sing
- Thanks be to God
- Trick the Devil
- Word
- Zion Lutheran Church



Holy Humor Sunday





ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Office Hours: Mon-Thurs: 9am-4pm; Fri: Office Closed



April 12, 2026 + Holy Humor Sunday

This week's service is a little different as we especially make space for jokes and laughter in the service. This is a "resurrection" (pun intended) of an old Easter custom begun by early Christians. The week following Easter Sunday was observed by the faithful as "days of joy and laughter." This was inspired by early Christian preachers who envisioned the risen Christ laughing at the devil. I hope you have a joyful worship experience!

+ GATHERING +

Prelude

(The prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for worship.)

Welcome

Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church in Albion! We offer a warm welcome to all who are worshipping in person or by way of Vyve Cable Channel 21 and Facebook Live. We hope that you encounter a word of God's grace and love in this worship service.

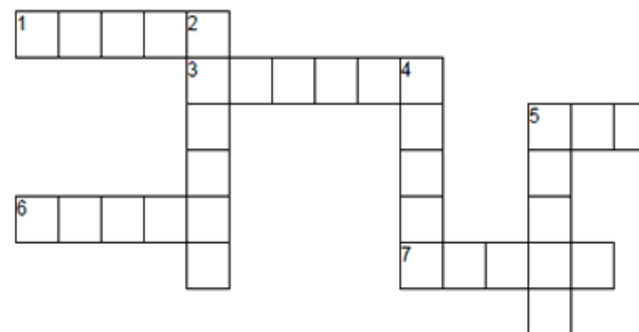
Holy Communion will be celebrated today. At the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. All who are baptized and believe in the real presence of Christ are welcome to share in the Lord's meal. Holy Communion will be distributed in person or by pre-packaged elements. If you are uncomfortable coming forward, please pick up the communion elements as you enter worship. We will partake of the sacrament as directed by the pastor within the worship service. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with an usher. Gluten Free wafers are available on request.

I've Just Seen Jesus

Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher"). John 20:16 (NIV)



Complete the activity below. The words in the puzzle are found in John 20:1-18.



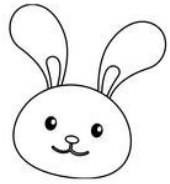
ACROSS

1. The color of snow; the opposite of black
3. Messengers from heaven
5. To produce tears; to weep
6. Not dead
7. To have nothing inside

DOWN

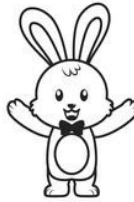
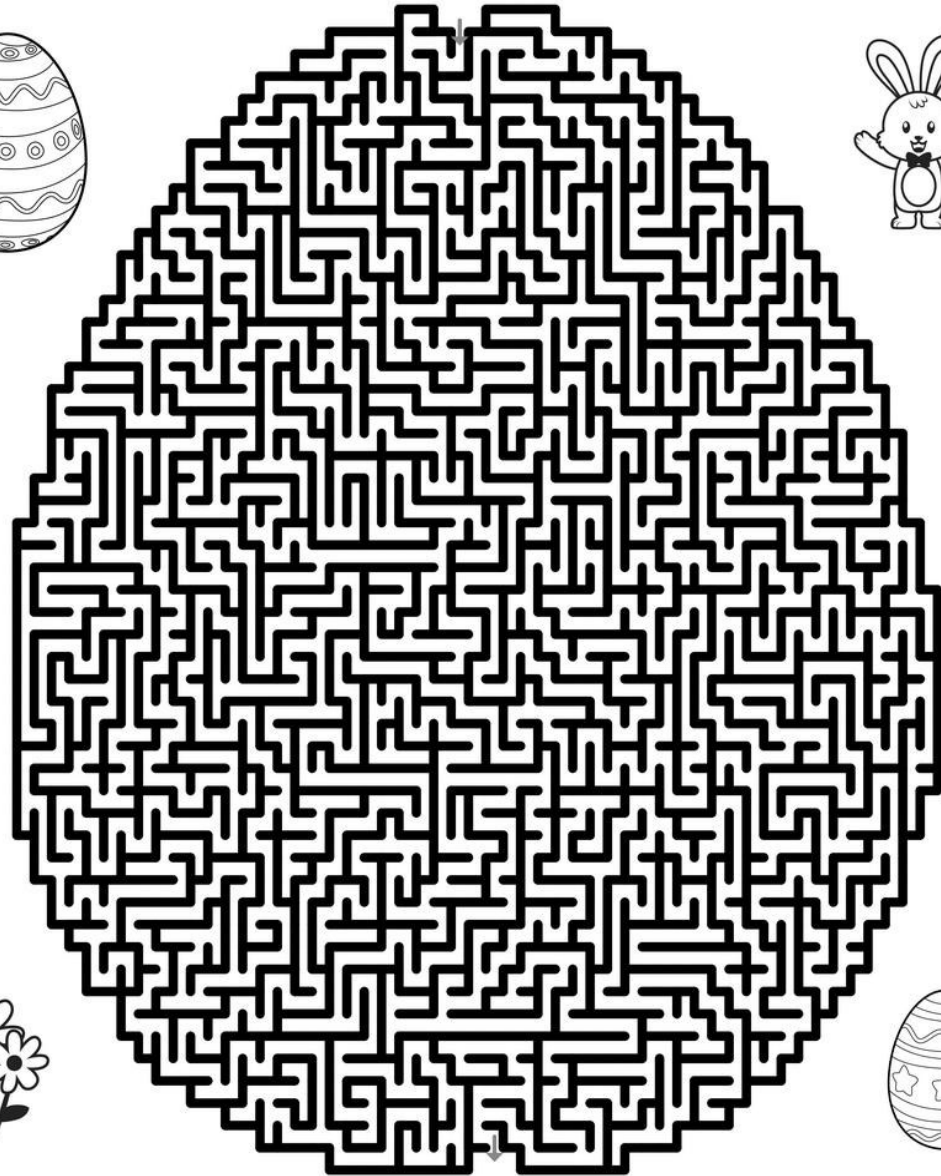
2. The day we celebrate Jesus' resurrection
4. What was used to cover the entrance to Jesus' tomb
5. A piece of fabric made by weaving cotton, wool, or other fibers

EASTER	CLOTH	CRY	EMPTY
ALIVE	WHITE	STONE	ANGELS



EASTER EGG MAZE

CAN YOU FIND YOUR WAY THROUGH THE MAZE?



Holy Humor Sunday

Confession & Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

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

(Silence is kept for self-reflection and confession.)

Almighty God,
you know us better than ourselves.
You know what important people we believe we are.
Believing that 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 despair, which is our best friend at times,
we ignore Jesus, who can bring us home to your heart.
Forgive us, God of joy,
and make us open to the startling, surprising,
and upside down ways in which you work.
Fill us with Easter’s laughter; fill us with your healing joy;
fill us with your love poured into us through Jesus Christ.

Hear the Good News! The Gospels tell us over and over again
of the JOY that comes to us through Christ.
When Jesus was around, lives were changed, the sick were healed,
and the sorrowful began to laugh with joy.
The good news is that our sins are forgiven
and the joy of the resurrection is ours forever!

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

Opening Hymn

Joy to the World

(Tune #267)



Joy to the World, the Lord's a - live, A - wake, re -
 Joy to the World, the emp - ty tomb, pro-claims God's
 Joy to the World, our Sav - ior reigns, let heav'n and



joice and sing! It's just as He had said, He's ris-en from the
 vic - tor - y of light com - pel - ling, a great dis -
 earth pro-claim the glor - ies of his righ - teous -



dead. Sal - va - tion now He brings, Sal - va - tion now He
 pel - ling, of dark-ness in the world, of dark-ness in the
 ness and won-ders of his love, and won-ders of his



brings, Sal - va - tion now Lord Je - sus brings.
 world, of dark - ness, dark - ness in the world.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Music: English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872
 Public Domain

Call to Worship

God has burst the bonds of sorrow.
 Life has crushed the most horrible death.

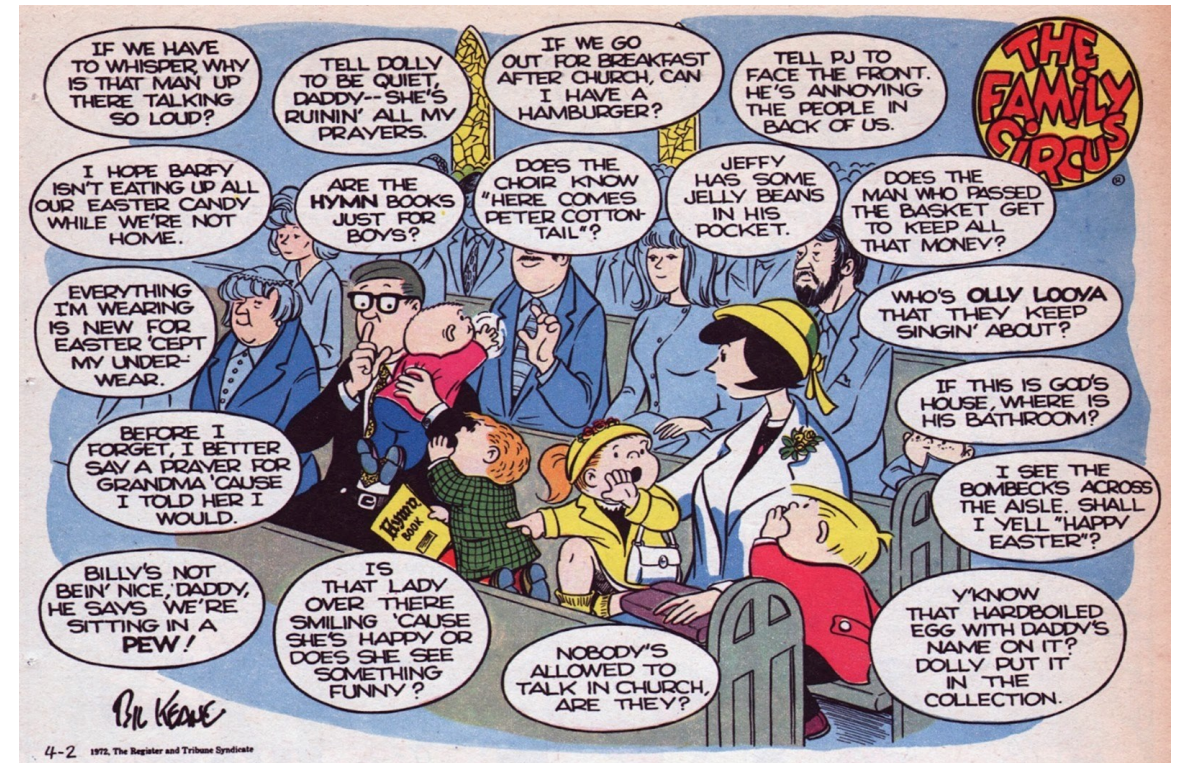


12-8

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Jeff
 Keene

"Hear that? People in heaven have
 ever-laughing life."



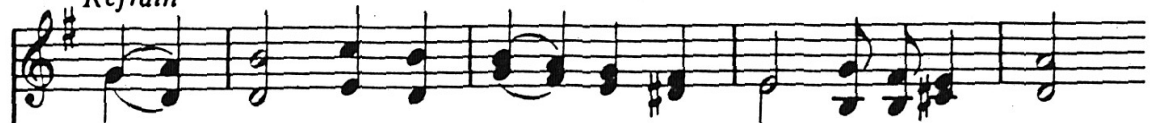
Jeff Keene

4-2 1972, The Register and Tribune Syndicate



And lives a - gain as King of Kings of saint and sin - ner, too.
It came with arms out-stretched to us, right through the cur-tain torn
From sin and death and dev-il's grip through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

Refrain



Oh, tid - ings of East-er peace and joy, peace and joy.



Glad tid - ings of East-er peace and joy. A - men.

Music: Public Domain

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God! Alleluia!



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Our hearts shall swell with cries of gladness;
our silent tongues, rejoice!

The daughters of God are lifted up;
the sons of God are risen!

Our spirits shall dwell in Heaven's hope!
God is always with us!

Apostolic Greeting

The Easter joy of our living Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,
the expansive love of God the Father,
and the unique peace of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Hymn of Praise

Hallelujah

Bell Choir

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray... *(A brief silence is kept.)*

Holy God,
as you have taken what we call an absurdity
and turned it into possibility,
as you have coaxed us to sing springtime alleluias
where once there was a gray dawn,
as you have called us out of the tombs we inhabit
into an undreamed of tomorrow, we praise you for this day!
Come, Risen Christ, in newness and hope on this Eastertide day.
Amen.

✠ **WORD** ✠

First Reading

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.

A reading from Acts.

^{14a}But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed

them, ²²“You that are 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 — ²³this 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. ²⁴But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵For 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;
²⁶therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover my flesh will live in hope.
²⁷For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One experience corruption.
²⁸You 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. ³⁰Since 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.
³¹Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,
‘He was not abandoned to Hades,
nor did his flesh experience corruption.’
³²This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.”
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 16

Let us read Psalm 16 responsively.

¹Protect 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 in the godly that are in the land,
upon those who are noble among the people.**
³But those who run after other gods shall have their troubles multiplied.
⁴**I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods,
never take their names upon my lips.**

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray... *(A brief silence is kept.)*

Wellspring of joy,

through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts.

**Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses,
that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

✠ SENDING ✠

Announcements

Benediction

In the name of the Father, In the name of the Father.

In the name of the Son, In the name of the Son.

In the name of the Spirit, In the name of the Spirit.

The Three in One, The Three in One.

May the Lord bless and keep you, May the Lord bless and keep you.

Lift his countenance upon you, Lift his countenance upon you.

His blessings go with you, His blessings go with you.

And give you peace, And give you peace.

Sending Hymn

God Bless You Merry Sinners



God bless you mer - ry sin - ner, for - giv - en it is true;
In Cal - va - ry, Jer - u - sa - lem that dis - mal Fri - day morn
So sing an Al - le - lu - ia, for Je - sus' vic - tor - y,



Re - mem - ber Christ our Sav - ior has lived and died for you,
A - mid the pain and suf - fer - ing e - ter - nal life was born.
And shout to all Ho - san - na, that we have been set free,

V. 3 Jesus came back from the dead I know because the Bible said.
Jesus is my Lord and King; Love and praise to Him I bring.

V. 4 When I die, I'll rise up, too. We'll all be in heaven, me and you.
We'll see Jesus face to face. Up in heaven, that happy place.

V. 5 The Easter story brings much joy To us all, each girl and boy.
Jesus is my Savior now; Heaven and earth to Him must bow.

Music: William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868
Public Domain ↑

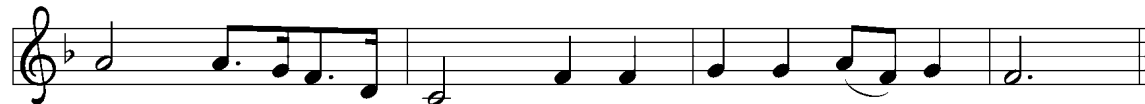
Music: African American spiritual
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Distribution Hymn *Go Tell it on the Mountain* (Tune #290)

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev'- ry-where,



Go tell it on the moun - tain, that Je - sus is a - live.



While sol-diers watched the grave-site that qui-et Sun-day dawn
The wo-men found no bo-dy their spi-ces to an-oint,
Go from the place He is - n't to where He said He'd be.



Refrain

There came a big com - mo - tion and then the storm was gone.
In - stead they found an an - gel, God's mes-sage to ap - point.
An Ea - ster time re - un - ion, the hills of Ga - li - lee.

Table Blessing

May the body and blood of our Risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,
strengthen you and preserve you unto eternal life. **Amen.**

⁵O LORD, you are my portion and my cup; it is you who uphold my lot.

⁶My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;
indeed, I have a rich inheritance.

⁷I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel;
my heart teaches me night after night.

⁸I have set the LORD always before me;
because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

⁹My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;
my body also shall rest in hope.

¹⁰For you will not abandon me to the grave,
nor let your holy one see the pit.

¹¹You will show me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy,
and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Second Reading

1 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.

A reading from First Peter.

³Blessed 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. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia Verse

(Tune: #855)

Christ from the dead is raised! The reign of death is o'er!
With Al - le - lu - ias now be praised the Lord for- ev - er - more!
How blest, all who be - lieve Him whom they can - not see,
but who in faith His life re-ceive now and e - ter - nal - ly!

Music: George J. Elvey, 1816-1893
Public Domain

Holy Gospel

John 20:19-31

The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. But one of their number is missing, and his unbelief prompts another visit from the Lord.

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 20th Chapter.

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."

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.

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God

ELW setting 3

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.

Distribution

If you are joining us from home or are taking communion from your seat:

The body of Christ, given for you. Amen.

The blood of Christ, shed for you. Amen.

Distribution Hymn *Jesus Loves Me, Easter Tells Me So* (Tune: #595)

V. 1 **Jesus loves me, this I know; The Easter story tells me so.
He died for me to bear my sin; He opened heaven to let me in.**

**Refrain: Yes, Jesus loves me; Yes Jesus loves me;
Yes Jesus loves me; Easter tells me so.**

V. 2 **Jesus loved me when He died, Loved me enough to be crucified.
But His death didn't last very long, Because His power is so strong.**

Together as the body of Christ,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Son,
the first-born of your new creation.
We remember his life lived for others,
and his death and resurrection, which renews the face of the earth.
We await his coming,
when, with the world made perfect through your wisdom,
all our sins and sorrows will be no more.
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, holy and merciful one, holy and compassionate,
send upon us and this meal your Holy Spirit,
whose breath revives us for life, whose fire rouses us to love.
Enfold in your arms all who share this holy food.
Nurture in us the fruits of the Spirit,
that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world.
Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Holy and benevolent God, receive our praise and petitions,
as Jesus received the cry of the needy,
and fill us with your blessing,
until, needy no longer and bound to you in love,
we feast forever in the triumph of the Lamb:
through whom all glory and honor is yours, O God, O Living One,
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Let us pray together as Jesus taught 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;**

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.**

Gospel Response

(Tune: #855)

How blest, all who be - lieve Him whom they can - not see,
but who in faith His life re - ceive now and e - ter - nal - ly!
Christ from the dead is raised! The reign of death is o'er!
With Al - le - lu - ias now be praised the Lord for - ev - er - more!

Children's Time Sermon

Hymn of the Day

Beautiful Day

(Tune: #281)



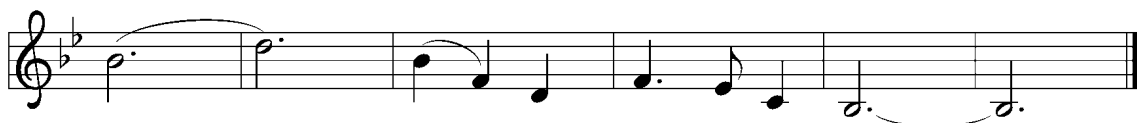
Beaut-i-ful Day, Glor - i - ous Day All is new,
Beaut-i-ful Day, Glor - i - ous Day Sol - diers quake,
Beaut-i-ful Day, Glor - i - ous Day sing and shout,



all's o - kay! 'Round the tomb there's danc-ing and song,
run a - way, the stone moved from heav-en a - bove,
tell and say, rad - iant beams from this sin-ner's face,



See in - side that the bod - y is gone. Christ, the Sav - ior's a -
Heav - en - ly Host says, "Hal - le - lu - jah, Jes - us, Lord, gives new
Show be - cause of a - maz - ing grace, Christ, the Sav - ior's a -



live, Christ, the Sav - ior's a - live.
life, Je - sus, Lord gives new life.
live, Christ, the Sav - ior's a - live.

Music: Franz Gruber, 1787-1863
Public Domain

Nicene Creed

Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith...

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**



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.

Eucharistic Prayer & Words of Institution

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal:
you we praise and glorify, you we worship and adore.

You formed the earth from chaos; you encircled the globe with air;
you created fire for warmth and light;
you nourish the lands with water.

You molded us in your image, and with mercy higher than the mountains,
with grace deeper than the seas,
you blessed the Israelites and cherished them as your own.

That also we, estranged and dying,
might be adopted to live in your Spirit,
you called to us through the life and death of Jesus.

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, Jesus 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.

✠ MEAL ✠

Great Thanksgiving

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.

Proper Preface

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

Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW setting 3

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
 the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
 God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
 begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
 through him all things were made.
 For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
 was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
 and became truly human.
 For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
 he suffered death and was buried.
 On the third day he rose again
 in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
 and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
 who has spoken through the prophets.
 We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
 We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
 We look for the resurrection of the dead,
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

P 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 brief silence.

A Our days are ultimately not in our hands, but in God's.
 So, let us pray for God's will to be done,
 and for God's help in learning how to
 better love and serve God and one another
 no matter what each day brings.
 In the joy of the Gospel, **Lord, hear our prayer.**

P God of love and joy, we are grateful for the gift of laughter –
for the gift of seeing ourselves as you see us,
the gift of admitting our weaknesses and our sin,
the gift of you, knowing us as we are,
and accepting and loving us just as we are.
In the joy of the Gospel, **Lord, hear our prayer.**

A: O God of the belly laugh,
sometimes our bellies ache and our hearts hurt
because we think life has rolled a stone in front of us.
We live as though resurrection and joy
are for other people and not us.
Sometimes we take life so seriously that we become miserable.
Forgive us! Lighten us! Help us to be joyful!
Help us to practice resurrection joy every day!
In the joy of the Gospel, **Lord, hear our prayer.**

P Healing God, we pray for those
who need your healing in body, mind, spirit, or soul.
We also pray for those who mourn the death of loved ones.
Especially this day, we pray for . . .
Heal them, love them, and shower them with your joy and peace.
In the joy of the Gospel, **Lord, hear our prayer.**

A God of the universe, we pray for all the leaders of the nations,
that reconciliation and true justice
may overcome conflict and oppression.
Guide them with your love and wisdom,
with your counsel and understanding, and with your joy and grace.
In the joy of the Gospel, **Lord, hear our prayer.**

P Here other intercessions may be offered either aloud or in silence.
In the joy of the Gospel, **Lord, hear our prayer.**

A Accept our gratitude, O God,
for the lives of those who now rest in you.
Grant us your peace amid our fears.
In the joy of the Gospel, **Lord, hear our prayer.**

P God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers
to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world.
In the name of the Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
may your joy be reflected in us and through us
for the sake of the Gospel. **Amen.**

Peace

The Peace of our Risen Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

† OFFERING †

Offering Response *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful* #184

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 dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927
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