Holy Humor Word Search

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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

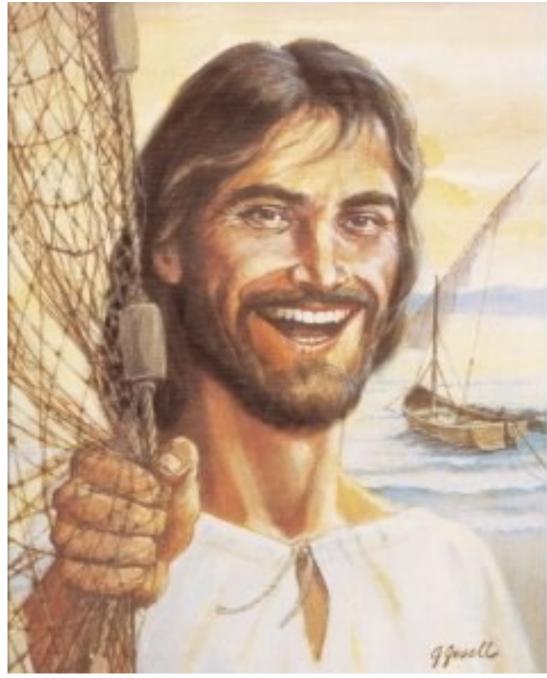
Trick the Devil

Zion Lutheran Church

Word



Holy Humor Sunday





ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

319 South 5th Street, Albion, Nebraska 68620 www.zionalbion.org + office @zionalbion.org+ 402-395-2043 Office Hours: Mon-Thurs: 9am-4pm; Fri: Office Closed



April 7, 2024 + 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

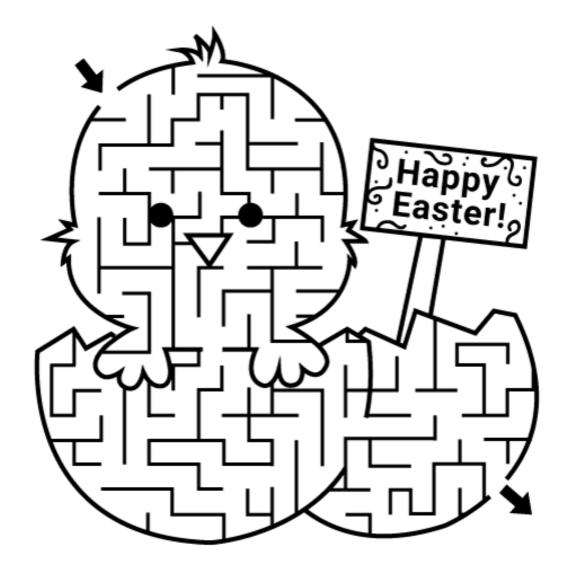
(The prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for worship.)

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.

Easter Chick Maze



2



An Easter Message

Mary went to the tomb and found it empty! Find the words that an angel spoke to her. Write the name of each picture on the lines. Transfer the letters to the other spaces to find the verse.



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, vou 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!



Call to Worship

God has burst the bonds of sorrow.

Life has crushed the most horrible death.



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



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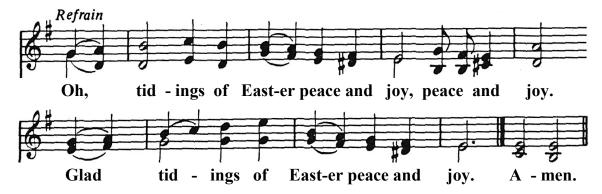
God bless you mer - ry sin - ner, for - giv - en it is true; In Cal - va - ry, Jer - u - sa - lem that dis-mal Fri-day morn So sing an Al - le - lu - ia, for Je - sus' vic - tor - y,



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,



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.



Music: Public Domain

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

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.**



(Tune: #270)



Hark! The her - ald an - gels said, Why seek Je - sus with the dead?



He's not here, as you can see, grave-clothes lie where he would be



On your way now, tell the oth-ers, Je - sus will be with his bro-thers.



Sis - ters, too he wants to see on the hills of Gal - i - lee.



Hark the her-ald an-gels said,

He is ris - en from the dead.

Music: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831-1915 Public Domain

Music: African American spiritual; Public Domain

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 4:32-35

While the apostles testified to others about the resurrection of Jesus, the early Christian community shared what they owned or sold their possessions to help their fellow believers who were in need.

A reading from Acts.

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

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 133

Let us read Psalm 133 responsively.

How good and how pleasant it is, when kindred live together in unity!

²It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard, upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his robe.

Table Blessing

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

Post-Communion Prayer

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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,

+ 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.)

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. (Refrain)

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. (Refrain)

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. (Refrain)

Music: William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868; Public Domain

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.



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.

³It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion. For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life forevermore.

Second Reading

1 John 1:1 — 2:2

The opening of this letter serves as a reality check. The reality of God is light, but our confessed reality has been sin. God cleanses us from our sinful reality through Christ's death so that we live in fellowship with Christ and walk in God's light.

A reading from First John.

¹We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life — ²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us — ³we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

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

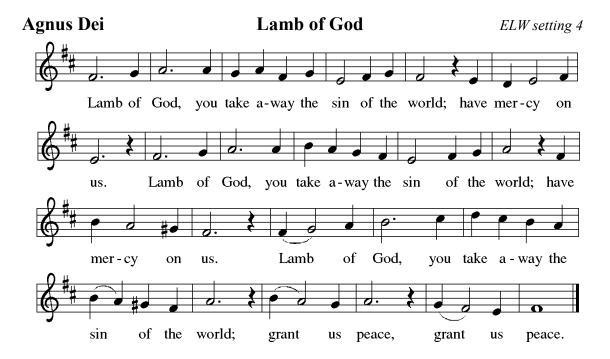
Holy Gospel John 20:19-31

The story of Easter continues as the risen Jesus appears to his disciples. His words to Thomas offer a blessing to all who entrust themselves in faith to the risen 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."

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



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)

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.

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. (Refrain) 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;

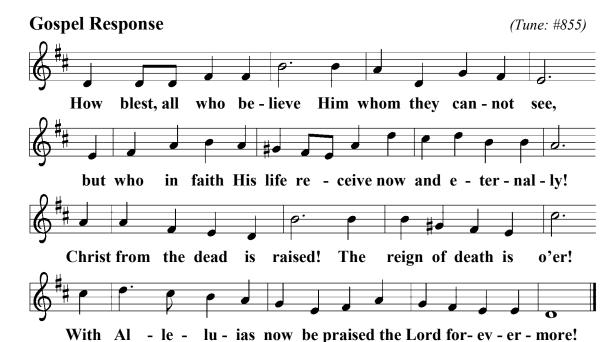
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

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.

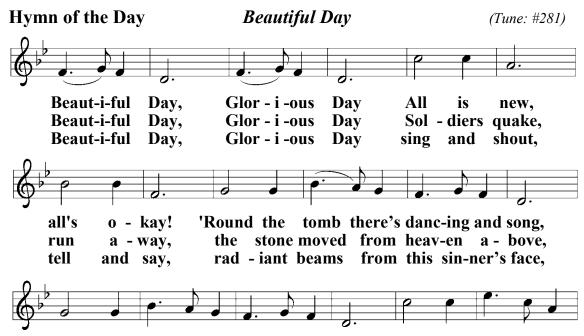
The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.



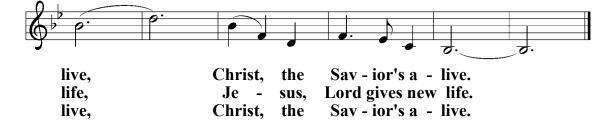
Music: George J. Elvey, 1816-1893; Public Domain

Children's Time Sermon

Children's Letters to God



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 -

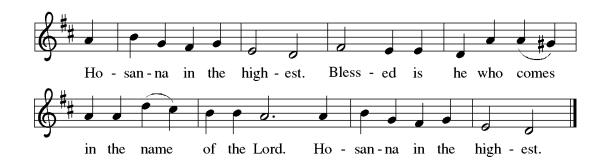


Music: Franz Gruber, 1787-1863; Public Domain

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.



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:

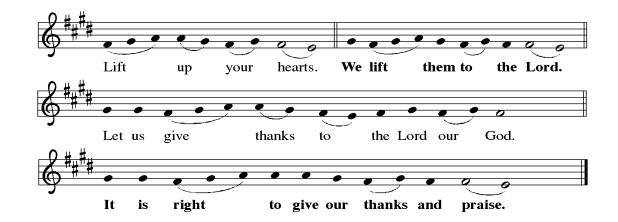
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

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.

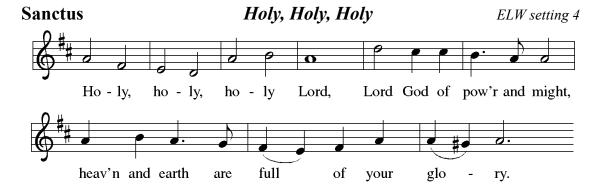
Do this for the remembrance of me.



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:



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 United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

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 remember . . . 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.**

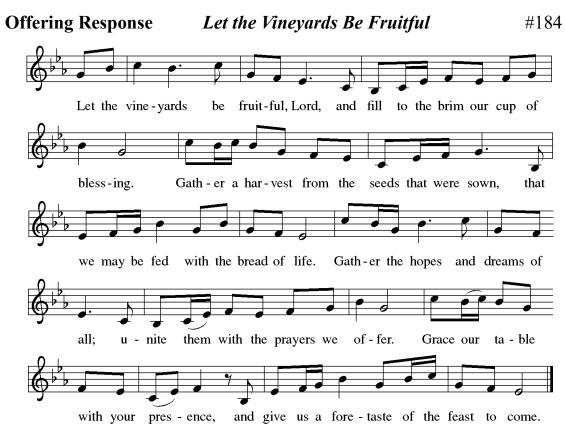
P For all these things, and whatever else you see that we need, bless us O Lord. In the name of the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,

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 +



+ MEAL +

