

SALEM LUTHERAN
401 South Lake St.
Lake Mills, Iowa

April 8, 2018 – 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

Holy Hilarity Sunday

Risus Paschalis – The Easter Laugh



Holy Hilarity Sunday was celebrated beginning in the early 1200's AD. St. Francis of Assisi recognized the value of joy and laughter when he advised, ***“Leave sadness to the devil. The devil has reason to be sad.”*** Martin Luther shared this belief when he stated, ***“God is not the God of sadness, but the devil is. Christ is the God of joy. It is pleasing to...God whenever you rejoice from the bottom of your heart.”*** John Wesley was much briefer in his description of happiness as a Christian, ***“Sour godliness is the devil's religion.”***

Prelude

Welcome to Holy Hilarity Sunday! You are invited to have an Easter Laugh at the devil's expense. Christ is risen! ENJOY!

Call to Worship from portions of Mark 16:1-8 and *Here's a Thought* by J. Sig Paulson.

P: On the first day of the week

C: three women walked to Jesus' tomb

P: to anoint His body with spices.

C: When they arrived,

P: They discovered that His body was not there!

C: Angels told them,

P: “You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth,

C: He has been raised, He is not here.”

P: This is the joke of Easter.

C: The devil has lost his victory over Jesus,

P: and death! So, put a smile on the inside of your face,

C: and the outside will take care of itself.

P: Laughter is cooperation with God.

C: Our Creator is a happy God. Christ came to bring joy.

P: Laughter is good medicine.

C: Be your own physician, prescribe laughter regularly.

P: A smile is a passport to happy living,

C: and its healing power is unlimited.

P: Positive people aren't always right,

C: but they are positive.

P: A laugh at our expense,

C: often proves to be a positive investment.

P: Happiness is not an accident.

C: It's first chosen and then lived.

P: Every soul is a depository

C: for the Spirit of God.

P: So smile!

C: It's good for the face, P: And it's good for the soul!

Opening Hymn *Christians We are Made for Laughter*

(tune: Hymn to Joy, Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee # 836)

by Jo Cassiday-Maloney

*Christians, we are made for laughter, born to giggle and guffaw!
Even in the great hereafter mirth is interspersed with awe.
So don't hold back, let it fill you, let your muscles do their thing!
Don't you worry, we won't drill you! Just let go and laugh and sing.*

*This is how our great God made us – faces, lungs, and hearts for glee.
And it's how God would parade us, showing forth most joyously
All the love and all the gladness, such a great capacity
For the joy that drives all sadness out of every you and me.*

*We are people with a Savior who was not above a joke,
Play with words was his behavior, he loved puns with all the folk.
Joy Christ showed us, joy Christ showers everywhere on everyone
Turn your face up like the flowers, catch the joy and have some fun!*

*Christ was dead and now he's risen! Isn't that a cause for glee?
Love has shattered all the prisons we have built so carefully.
Now unfettered, free as breezes, giggles, snorts, and glee abound!
Even when our laughter wheezes, we praise God with every sound.*

Confession and Absolution from Lord, I Want to Celebrate

P: Lord, You know the way I feel,

**C: How I sometimes wheel and deal,
Lose my interest and my zeal,
Strike a bargain and a deal,
Turn a friend into a heel,
Fail to thank You for a meal,
Underrate Your love appeal.**

P: Spirit, enter into my zeal

(and take away our sins for real.)

Rejoice, your sins are forgiven!!

Happy Scriptures

- JOY appears in the scriptures 183 times, Rejoice: 153 times...

**Ecclesiastes 3:1, 4a: For everything there is a season,
A time for every matter under heaven:
A time to weep and a time to laugh!**

Psalm 2:4: God, who sits in heaven, laughs!

**Psalm 30:11: God, You have turned my mourning into dancing;
you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy.**

**Psalm 126:2A - Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
And our tongue with shouts of joy?**

Proverbs 17:22a - A cheerful heart is good medicine!

Nehemiah 8:10 – The joy of the Lord is my strength!

Prayer of the Day: *The Clown's Prayer*

P: Lord, as we stumble through the joys and sorrows of life,

C: Help us to create more laughter than tears, dispense more happiness than gloom, spread more cheer than despair.

P: Never let us become so indifferent that we fail to see the wonder in the eyes of a child or the twinkle in the eyes of the aged.

C: Never let us forget to give our all to bring your resurrection joy to all people, help them to smile, and forget, at least for the moment, all the unpleasant things in their lives.

P: And Lord, in my final moment, may I hear you whisper:

C: "When you made My people smile, you made Me smile." Amen.

A TIME TO LAUGH – Please feel free to share a joke or funny story.

First Lesson - Genesis 18:1-15

At times God's Good News seems so far-fetched that it makes us laugh out loud. So it was with Sarah, who was barren and far beyond child-bearing age, when she heard the three "men" (angels) declare that she was to have a baby in her old age. The Good News of God is that He does make miracles come true so that Isaac, whose name means "laughter", can be born into our lives as well.

The word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

Second Lesson – Philippians 4:4-7

The author of Philippians encourages us to always look on the positive side of life because God is with us. We are encouraged to "Rejoice always!"

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

Hymn of Joy ***Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*** ELW #884

Gospel Lesson – John 15:8-11

All that Jesus does, and all that we do is for one reason, "that your joy may be complete." God's desire for us is to have His joy.

The Holy Gospel according to John the 15th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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

Sermon ***To Laugh...Is to Honor God!***

Hymn of the Day ***Joy to the World*** ELW #267
(SING vs. 1, WHISTLE vs. 2, HUM vs. 3, SING vs. 4)

Confession of Faith

P: I believe that God has created everything in the universe and has co-created me with my parents.

C: I believe.

P: I believe that Jesus has suffered and died for my sins and made me right with God. I believe I am a forgiven sinner.

C: I believe.

P: I believe that God's Spirit is loose on the earth and available to guide me and help me in the time of need.

C: I believe.

P: I believe that the Church universal is the Body of Christ and is in the world to share God's love and proclaim the Good News of Jesus.

C: I believe.

P: I believe that when I die, Jesus will be there to meet me and I will be in Heaven with God for all eternity.

C: I believe, help my unbelief.

A TIME TO LAUGH – *Please feel free to share a joke or funny story.*

Happy Scripture

John 16:33: Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world!

John 15:11: "I have said these things to you," Jesus said to his disciples, "so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete."

1 Peter 1:8: Although you have not seen Jesus, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy.

Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed! Ha ha ha!

Joyful Offering to God

Offertory ***We Give Thee But Thine Own*** ELW #686
(SING verse 1, LA, LA, LA, verse 2, HUM verse 3, SING verse 4)

Benediction from Receive His Blessing...Giving His Love!

By Roy Lessin

P: God has blessed you to make you a blessing,
He wants to give through your hands,
Smile through your face,
Care through your heart,
Speak through your voice,
And shine through your eyes.

C: Amen. Let it be so!

Closing Hymn *I Know That My Redeemer Lives* ELW #619 (verse 1-4)

(SING verse 1, HUM verse 2, WHISTLE verse 3, SING verse 4)

Dismissal

P: Go in peace, **C: Laugh at the devil!**

Preaching: Pastor Joel Dahlen

Assisting: Pastor Joel Guttormson

Organist: 8:30 Ruth Sheldon

Reader: 8:30 Willie Skellenger

Ushers: 8:30 Lyle & Orloue Thomson

10:30 Linda Helgeson & Dale Mehus

Altar Guild for April: Sharon Johnson, Pat Young

The radio broadcast this morning is given in loving memory of Vera Larson, from her family.

The 8:30 a.m. worship service is broadcast weekly on KIOW-FM 107.3.

Reserve your special date to sponsor the 2018 8:30 a.m. worship service broadcast on KIOW (107.3 FM) radio in Forest City. The service can also be heard at 8:30 a.m. on cable channel 2.

CALL THE OFFICE TO RESERVE YOUR 2018 DATE - 592.1771. Cost is \$83.

2018 - 8:30 A.M. KIOW RADIO BROADCAST DATES AVAILABLE:

May 6, 20, June 17, July 8, 15,

Aug. 5, Oct. 7, 14, 28, Nov. 4, 11, Dec. 23, 30

We also have a sponsorship program for the live internet broadcast of the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Sponsorship is available for \$40 per Sunday.

Call the office to reserve a date in 2018

Salem's Clothes Closet will be open Mondays from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

SALEM CHURCH NEWS

SUNDAY, APRIL 8

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship – Sanctuary

9:30 a.m. Youth Praise Choir–Choir Room; Coffee Fellowship–Fellowship Hall

9:45 a.m. Faith Formation – Chapel

9:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship – Fellowship Hall

10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship – Sanctuary

MONDAY, APRIL 9

1:00 p.m. Mission Quilters – Fellowship Hall

2:00 p.m. Food Shelf Open

5:30 p.m. Council - Library

TUESDAY, APRIL 10

10:00 a.m. Caregivers Support Group - Lounge

10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

7:00 p.m. Altar Guild – Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11

5:30 p.m. 8th Grade Confirmation Class – Fellowship Hall

New Life Nutrition – Room #4

7:00 p.m. Choir – Choir Room; St. Pat's Youth Room – Room #9

THURSDAY, APRIL 12

9:30 a.m. Fine Arts Guild - Lounge

SATURDAY, APRIL 14

5:30 p.m. Casual Service

SUNDAY, APRIL 15

8:30 a.m. Traditional Service

9:30 a.m. Youth Praise Choir,

Mission Statement Forum–Narthex

(Grab a cup of Coffee and a goody in the Fellowship Hall & join us in the narthex.)

9:45 a.m. Faith Formation – Chapel

10:30 a.m. Contemporary Communion Service – Sanctuary

40th Anniversary Celebration!

April 15, 2018 at

Galilean Lutheran Church

4454 255th St, Clear Lake IA

You are invited to our

40th Anniversary Celebration.

Worship at 9:15 a.m. followed by a

luncheon. Please join us!

Those worshipping April 1: 426 Giving: \$9576.35

Next Week's Readings: Acts 3:12-79, Psalm 4, 1 John 3:1-7, Luke 24:36b-48

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