



SALEM LUTHERAN

Lake Mills, Iowa

April 3, 2016

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: *Sonatina* Opus 36, No. 6

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" #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 15h chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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

**Sermon "Three Reasons to Laugh at the Devil:
One Reason to Be Cautious"**

**Hymn of the Day "Joy to the World" #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”** **#686**
(SING verse 1, LA, LA, LA, verse 2, HUM verse 3, SING verse 4)

Words of Institution and Lord’s Prayer

Communion

Post Communion Blessing

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” #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 & Presiding: Pastor Joel Dahlen

Assisting: Pastor Melinda McCluskey

Organist: Ruth Sheldon

Reader: Harris Honsey

Ushers: Margaret Okland Family

Acolytes: Morgan Brainerd, Nicole Canny, Tyler Christian

Communion Servers: Brooke Byars and Heather Mannes

Video Coordinator: Carol Abbey; **Sound:** Al Skellenger

Videographer: Hope Levine

Altar Guild for April: Sharon Johnson, Pat Young

The radio broadcast this morning is in loving memory of Ruth Tweeten from the Tweeten Family.

The live streaming of the 9:00 a.m. service this morning is sponsored in memory of Ruth Tweeten by the Tweeten Family.

Flowers have been placed in loving memory of Ruth Tweeten from the Tweeten Family.

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

Available dates are: May 8, July 10, Aug. 7, 14, Oct. 16, 23, Nov. 6, 20, Dec. 4, 11.

We have a sponsorship program for the live internet broadcast of the 9:00 a.m. worship service. Sponsorship is available for \$40 per Sunday. **Call the office to reserve a date in 2016.**

Salem has a wheel chair available for use. It is kept in the narthex closet.

Silent Auction

Salem Lutheran Church Education Unit
Pre-school supplies and inventory; games, toys, puzzles and chairs.
Saturday, April 9, 2016 9 a.m. until Noon

Sending of Communion will be held the third Sunday of each month. Please call the office (641.592.1771) if you would like to receive communion at home on Sunday, April 17th.

Next Week's Lessons:

Acts 9:1-6 [7-20], Psalm 30, Revelation 5:11-14, John 21:1-19

A benefit will be held today, from 11:00 – 2:00 p.m. for James Richter
to help with ongoing medical expenses in Rochester.

Lunch, Silent auction, Bake Sale
Thrivent Funds will be available.

If you would like to donate baked good or silent auction items, you may
contact Robin Grunhvd (641.592.4876) if you have any questions.
Items may be brought the morning of the benefit.

PRAYER

changes things

Please remember in prayer this week:

The family & friends of Ernie Langerud

Darlene Madson

Prayer Families: Stanley/Judy Stover, Paul Sullivan Family,
BrookeSwanson Family, Mary Swenson, Mike/Janet Swenson, Virginia
Thomas, Betty Thompson, Bradlee Thompson Family, Courtney
Thompson, Dennis S. Thompson



Salem offers a safe and easy way to give online.
Scan this QR code to go to the website. There you
can click the **Donate Now** button to make your gift.
You decided the amount. You will need either a
credit or debit card to complete the transaction.
Thank you for your support of ministry at Salem!



THIS WEEK AT SALEM

SUNDAY, APRIL 3

9:00 a.m. Communion Worship - Sanctuary
10:00 a.m. Sunday School; Coffee Fellowship – Fellowship Hall
10:40 a.m. Youth Choir - Chapel

MONDAY, APRIL 4

2:00 – 5:00 p.m. Food Shelf Open
4:00 p.m. Hannah Circle
2:00 – 5:00 p.m. Food Shelf Open

TUESDAY, APRIL 5

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6

2:10 p.m. Girl Scouts – Room #4
3:30 – 5:00 p.m. Piano Lessons - Lounge
5:00 p.m. Life & Growth Board
5:00 p.m. Confirmation Pizza – Fellowship Hall
5:30 p.m. Confirmation Large Group – Fellowship Hall
6:00 p.m. Informal Worship - Chapel
7:00 p.m. St. Pat's Youth Group - Room #9

THURSDAY, APRIL 7

9:30 a.m. Grace Circle – Fellowship Hall; Rhoda Circle – LaRita Bakken;
Sarah Circle – Sylvia Heimdal
2:00 p.m. Martha Circle Potluck – Lounge; Elizabeth Circle – Janice Colby

FRIDAY, APRIL 8

12:00 p.m. Property Board
3:10 p.m. Girl Scouts – Room #4

SUNDAY, APRIL 10

9:00 a.m. Worship Service - Sanctuary
10:00 a.m. Sunday School; Coffee Fellowship/Farewell to Pastor Dahlen
– Fellowship Hall
10:40 a.m. Youth Choir - Chapel

**Those worshipping: March 24,(Maundy Thursday) 126; March 25, (Good
Friday) 49; March 27, Easter: 485**