

# Second Sunday of Easter

April 7, 2024

10:15 am

## Prelude

## Welcome

The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need. Today, is also known as Bright Sunday or Holy Humor Sunday. It is celebrated the week following Easter. It gives us a chance to celebrate the joy of Easter in a fun way a week after we've celebrated it in a glorious way.

## Announcements

### Holy Humor #1

## Confession & Forgiveness

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

**C: You know better than we do, Amused God, what important people we believe we are. Believing we must 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 the despair, which is our best friend, we ignore Jesus. who can bring us home to your heart. Forgive us, Heart of Joy, and make us open to the startling, and upside-down, ways in which you work. Fill us with Easter's laughter; fill us with your healing joy; fill us with the love poured into us through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.**

P: The Gospels tell us over and over again of the joy which comes to us through Christ. When Jesus was around, lives were changed, the sick were healed, the sorrowful began to laugh with joy. The good news is this joy is now given to us.

**C: Through the Holy Spirit, we are gifted with joy. We are sent forth to bring good news to the oppressed, to bring healing to the broken, to anoint everyone with the oil of gladness. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.**

## Gathering Hymn: ELW #379 "Now the Green Blade Rises"

1. Now the green blade riseth, from the buried grain, Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain; Love lives again, that with the dead has been: Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.
2. In the grave they laid Him, Love who had been slain, Thinking that He never would awake again, Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen: Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.
3. Forth He came at Easter, like the risen grain, Jesus who for three days in the grave had lain; Quick from the dead the risen One is seen: Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.
4. When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain, Jesus' touch can call us back to life again, Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been: Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

(copyright: Public Domain, One-License #M-402357)

### Call to Worship

P: Joy is loose,

**C: in the wiggles of the children,**

P: the whispers of the youth,

**C: the smiles of the adults.**

P: We praise God for this glorious day.

**C: Let the praise break forth in the most unlikely places and in silly ways.**

P: Joy and praise fill our hearts and our songs.

**C: Let the laughter be deep, for we are God's people.**

### Prayer of the Day

**Good and gracious God, we laugh as a sign of the joy you have brought into the world through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Help us to see light through your eyes – eyes of grace and forgiveness – and help us to laugh when the world presses in around us and we are afraid. Amen.**

### Holy Humor #2

## Readings and Psalm

### 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.*

<sup>32</sup>Now 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. <sup>33</sup>With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the

Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup>There 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. <sup>35</sup>They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

### **Psalm: Psalm 133**

<sup>1</sup>How good and how pleasant it is,  
when kindred live together in unity!

<sup>2</sup>**It 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.**

<sup>3</sup>It 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.*

<sup>1</sup>We 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—<sup>2</sup>this 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—<sup>3</sup>we 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. <sup>4</sup>We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

<sup>5</sup>This 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. <sup>6</sup>If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; <sup>7</sup>but 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. <sup>8</sup>If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

<sup>2:1</sup>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; <sup>2</sup>and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

*Alleluia.* Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe. *Alleluia.* (John 20:29)

The Holy Gospel according to the book of John, beginning with the Twentieth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **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.*

<sup>19</sup>When 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." <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

<sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So 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."

<sup>26</sup>A 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." <sup>27</sup>Then 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." <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But 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 our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ**

## **Holy Humor #3**

### **Children's Sermon**

#### **Sermon**

## **Holy Humor #4**

### **Hymn of the Day: ELW #836 "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"**

- 1. Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love! Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee, praising thee, their sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away. Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.**
- 2. All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heav'n reflect thy rays, stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise. Field and forest, vale and mountain, flow'ry meadow, flashing sea, chanting bird, and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in thee.**
- 3. Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest, well-spring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest! Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine; teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine!**

*(copyright: Public Domain, One-License #M-402357)*

## **Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

## **Offering**

**Offering Hymn: ELW #686 "We Give Thee But Thine Own" 1<sup>st</sup> verse**

- 1. We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be; all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.**

*(copyright: Public Domain, One-License #M-402357)*

## **Offering Prayer**

Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. **Amen.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

## **The Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you. **And also 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 thanks and praise.**

## **Preface**

## Thanksgiving at the Table

### Lord's Prayer

**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.**

### Invitation to Communion

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

### Distribution Hymn: ELW #561 "*Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory*"

- 1. Joyous light of heav'nly glory, loving glow of God's own face, you wo sing creation's story, shine on ev'ry land and race. Now as evening falls around us, we shall raise our songs to you. God of day break, God of shadows, come and light our hearts anew.**
- 2. In the stars that grace the darkness, in the blazing sun of dawn, in the light of peace and wisdom, we can hear your quiet song. Love that fills the night with wonder, love that warms the wary soul, love that bursts all chains asunder, set us free and make us whole.**
- 3. You would made the heaven's splendor, ev'ry dancing star of night, make us shine with gentle justice, let us each reflect your light. Mighty God of all creation, gentle Christ who lights our way, loving Spirit of salvation, lead us on to endless day.**

*(copyright: Public Domain, One-License #M-402357)*

### Post-communion Blessing Prayer after Communion

### Holy Humor #5

### Benediction

Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope  
✠ bless you now and always. **Amen.**

### Sending Hymn: ELW #267 "*Joy to the World*"

- 1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king; let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.**
- 2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

3. **No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found far as, far as far as the curse is found.**
4. **He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonder, wonders of his love.**

*(copyright: Public Domain, One-License #M-402357)*

## **Dismissal**

Go now, sent by the one who was sent by God. Walk in the light; testify to the resurrection of Christ; forgive the sins of all, and live at peace with one another. Go in peace. Rejoice, be glad, and make Christ known. **Thanks be to God.**

## **Announcements:**

- Tuesday, April 9, 2024, Building Committee will meet at 6:30 pm.
- Wednesday, April 10, 2024, Bible Study will be held at 9:00 am. All members are invited.
- Tuesday, April 16, 2024, Church Council meeting at 6:30 pm.
- Saturday, April 20, 2024, WELCA Minnesota River Conference will meet at Zion Lutheran Church in Lake Crystal. Registration is 8:00 am. See Paulette or Carla if interested in attending.
- Sunday, May 5, 2024, New Members Sunday.
- August 17 & 18, 2024 weekend of our 150<sup>th</sup> year anniversary.

Calvary Lutheran Church  
19216 Rapidan Avenue  
Mankato, Minnesota 56001

Pastor David Reedstrom  
Ministers: All Members

Church Phone: 507-278-3317  
E-mail: [office@calvaryrapidan.org](mailto:office@calvaryrapidan.org)  
Website: [calvaryrapidan.org](http://calvaryrapidan.org)  
Facebook: Calvary Lutheran Rapidan

Portions of the liturgy are from [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com) © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB141947

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Broadcast and other copyright permissions: One License M-401357.