



*"Encouraging faith and proclaiming God's love by Gathering, Growing and Giving"*

Holy Humor Sunday

Communion Worship

April 24, 2022

***This worship is being livestreamed. Your presence in the sanctuary signifies your agreeing to be on our live broadcast.***

*If you are a VISITOR with us today, we are so grateful that God brought you here. Please sign our Guest Book in the church or send an email to [sothlc@sothem.org](mailto:sothlc@sothem.org). We are so glad that God brought you to this time of worship.*

*NOTE: Bold text indicates worshipers' response, and \*' means please stand as able.*

BELL & PRELUDE

Michelle Young

WELCOME AND MUTUAL MINISTRY MESSAGES

P: Our Creator, Savior and Holy Spirit offer us life, happiness, and joy. Today we are intentionally focusing on these gifts from God. A reading from the Apostle Paul's letter to the Romans 15:13 "*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*" Amen.

**GATHERING**

\* GATHERING HYMN *Go Tell It On the Mountain* – Easter version

*Chorus:* Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.

Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus is alive.

1. While soldiers watched the gravesite, that quiet Sunday dawn, there came a big commotion, and then the storm was gone. (*Chorus*)
2. The women found no body, their spices to anoint; instead they found an angel, God's message to appoint. (*Chorus*)
3. Go from where He isn't, to where He said He'd be, An Easter-time reunion, the hills of Galilee. (*Chorus*)

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Sing a new song!

**A joyful melody of springtime glory and rebirth**

Sing praise to our Still-Laughing Easter God

**Who has rolled away the bindings of yesterday**

Immerse your anxiety and despair in the fountain of new birth.

**We place our visions and hopes on the table of wine and wheat.**

For God has taken ordinary things.

**And made them extraordinary. Sing a new song!**

\* The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

\* PRAYER OF THE DAY Let us pray. Holy God, **we celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead, something that many would call an absurdity, but you turned into a possibility. You have lightened our hearts to sing springtime Alleluias, where once there was a gray winter dawn. We praise you for this day, and every day! Come, Risen Christ, in newness and hope on this Eastertide day. Amen.**

~ from *Still Laughing God: Service Prayers for the Second Sunday of Easter*, posted on the United Church of Christ's *Worship Way*, amended by Pastor Mary Eide

### GROWING

*God had promised Abraham that a great nation would come from him and his wife Sarah. They had all but given up hope that God would fulfill this promise. They were happily surprised when Sarah gave birth to their son Isaac when she was 90 years old, and Abraham was 100. A reading from the Book of Genesis, chapter 21*

<sup>1</sup> The LORD dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as he had promised. <sup>2</sup> Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. <sup>3</sup> Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him. <sup>4</sup> And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. <sup>5</sup> Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. <sup>6</sup> Now Sarah said, "God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me." <sup>7</sup> And she said, "Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."

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

*God wants to make sure that the prophet Balaam understands he is to strictly obey God when sharing a message with King Balak, who wants to kill the Israelites that are moving through his land as they flee from slavery in Egypt. An angel comes before Balaam to emphasize God's instructions, but initially only the donkey Balaam rode on could see the angel who was armed with a sword. A reading from Numbers, chapter 22, beginning at verse 22.*

<sup>22</sup> God's anger was kindled because (Balaam) was going (to see King Balak), and the angel of the LORD took his stand in the road as his adversary. Now (Balaam) was riding on the donkey, and his two servants were with him. <sup>23</sup> The donkey saw the angel of the LORD standing in the road, with a drawn sword in his hand; so the donkey turned off the road, and went into the field; and Balaam struck the donkey, to turn it back onto the road. <sup>24</sup> Then the angel of the LORD stood in a narrow path between the vineyards, with a wall on either side. <sup>25</sup> When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD, it scraped against the wall, and scraped Balaam's foot against the wall; so he struck it again. <sup>26</sup> Then the angel of the LORD went ahead, and stood in a narrow place, where there was no way to turn either to the right or to the left. <sup>27</sup> When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD, it lay down under Balaam; and Balaam's anger was kindled, and he struck the donkey with his staff. <sup>28</sup> Then the LORD opened the mouth of the donkey, and it said to Balaam, "What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?" <sup>29</sup> Balaam said to the donkey, "Because you have made a fool of me! I wish I had a sword in my hand! I would kill you right now!" <sup>30</sup> But the donkey said to Balaam, "Am I not your donkey, which you have ridden all your life to this day? Have I been in the habit of treating you this way?" And he said, "No."

<sup>31</sup> Then the LORD opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the road, with his drawn sword in his hand; and he bowed down, falling on his face. <sup>32</sup> The angel of the LORD said to him, "Why have you struck your donkey these three times? I have come out as an adversary, because your way is perverse<sup>[b]</sup> before me. <sup>33</sup> The donkey saw me, and turned away from me these three times. If it had not turned away from me, surely just now I would have killed you and let it live." <sup>34</sup> Then Balaam said to the angel of the LORD, "I have sinned, for I did not know that you

were standing in the road to oppose me. Now therefore, if it is displeasing to you, I will return home." <sup>35</sup> The angel of the LORD said to Balaam, "Go with the men; but speak only what I tell you to speak." So Balaam went on with the officials of Balak. The word of the Lord **All: Thanks be to God**

SERMON

Pastor Mary Eide

HYMN OF THE DAY *God Bless You Merry Sinner* (sung to "God Bless Ye Merry Gentlemen")

God bless you merry sinner, you're forgiven it is true;  
Remember Christ your Savior, has lived and died for you,  
And lives again as King of Kings, of saint and sinner, too.  
Oh, tidings of Easter peace and joy, peace and joy.  
Oh, tidings of Easter peace and joy.

In Jerusalem at Calvary, that dismal Friday morn,  
amid the pain and suffering, eternal life was born.  
It came with arms outstretched to us, right through the curtain torn.  
Oh, tidings of Easter peace and joy, peace and joy.  
Oh, tidings of Easter peace and joy.

### GIVING

\*THE APOSTLES' CREED (*professed together*)

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell.\* On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

\*Or, He descended to the dead.

\* READING OF JOY-FILLED BIBLE TEXTS

\* PRAYERS (P: O Lord, giver of joy and laughter, **All: we thank you for giving us these gifts.**)

\* LORD'S PRAYERS **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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen**

\*ANNOUNCEMENTS/BLESSING God, the Author of life, Christ, the living Cornerstone, and the life-giving Spirit of adoption, ✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

\* DISMISSAL Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!** Go in peace. Tell what God has done. **Thanks be to God.**

\* Green #551 SENDING HYMN "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" p. 4

\* DISMISSAL Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way. **Thanks be to God.**

\* POSTLUDE

Michelle Young

# Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

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1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!  
2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,  
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,

Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais-ing thee, their sun a - bove.  
stars and an - gels sing a-round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean-depth of hap - py rest!

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.  
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, flow-'ry mead-ow, flash-ing sea,  
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;

Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.  
chant-ing bird, and flow-ing foun-tain call us to re - joice in thee.  
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1933

Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

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**If you are visiting with us**, we are so grateful that God brought you here. Any questions? Ask one of our friendly members wearing an USHER name plate. We have *hearing assistance devices, a lift/elevator, & children's Busy Bags.*

+ Please complete a Visitor Form or sign our Guest Book at the large WELCOME DESK in the Gathering Area

+ You are welcome to join in a time of Fellowship after worship in our basement. Usually held on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH AND BEYOND OUR DOORS

<b>TODAY:</b>	<b>8:45am</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>
	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Holy Humor Worship</b>
	<b>11:00am</b>	<b>Fellowship (Hosts: Sweeney's)</b>
Monday	6:30pm	Church Council Meeting
	7pm	AA Meeting
Tuesday:	4-6pm	Food Pantry
Wednesday:	10am	Adult Bible Study
	3:20-4:30pm	Confirmation Class
Friday:	10-Noon	Food Pantry
Saturday	9am-4pm	NW Synod Assembly @ Trinity Lutheran-EC
Sunday:	8:45am	Sunday School
	10:00am	Lutheran Campus Ministry Sunday/Senior Appreciation/Communion Worship

Join us NEXT SUNDAY for...

LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY & SENIOR APPRECIATION next week. We will celebrate with and bless Issie Hollister as she approaches the end of your Senior year in High School. We will also hear from members of the UW-Stout Lutheran Campus Ministry, learning more about this ministry's impact on their lives and the campus.

**ELCA Women's Chippewa Valley Conference 2022 RETREAT** at Luther Park Bible Camp  
944 24 1/4 Street, Chetek, WI 54728 [www.LutherPark.org](http://www.LutherPark.org)

**Wednesday June 8<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> 2022**

**Presenter:** Sallie Ankerfelt **Music** with Dottie Hayden

**Early Bird Registration \$75 before 5/31/2022. \$80 after 6/1/2022.**

**Registration:** Wed. 9:30 A.M. – 10:15 A.M. in the new Ministry Center OR Thurs. 7:30 A.M. New member orientation will be at 10:00 A.M. Wed in the Ministry Center.

**Each person must fill out a form and prepay.** All rooms are handicapped accessible. A free will offering will be taken. Please return this form with your check by 6/1/2022. Retreat begins at 10:15 A.M. on Wed. 6/8/22 & concludes at 3:00 P.M. on Thurs. 6/9/22. One day rate is \$40.

**Please bring:** personal items, towels, pillows, bedding or sleeping bag, flashlight, Bible, pens, swimsuit, snacks, spending money, smock/apron for painting.

**REGISTRATION FORMS available at church or could be emailed to you**

## LUTHER PARK BIBLE CAMP

Have you taken time to look at the summer camp programs offered at Luther Park and Luther Woods? While June and July may seem a long way away, the staff at Luther Park is already gearing up for another exciting summer filled with fun and faith. Whether you are a first-time camper or a veteran senior high, there is something for everyone at Luther Park! For the more adventurous camper, Luther Park offers several programs that emphasize having fun in the outdoors. Adventure camps this summer include Adventure at the Woods, Boundary Water Canoe Trip, Namekagon Canoe Trip, Trading Spaces, and two new outdoor programs: Bike Trip and Expedition at the Woods. Camp booklets are available at church, near the Mailboxes. You can also access information at their website:



<http://lutherpark.org/>

- Parents: Use Code: **SH50** when you register, and the church will pay 50% of camp costs!!
- We have additional scholarship money available
- AND there are *Camperships* available through Luther Park. (Camperships forms available at church and online)

How to register? Mail in registration form or register online with deposit. (Don't forget *EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT* REGISTRATION DEADLINE **MAY 1<sup>ST</sup>**!

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Excerpt from Rev. Susan Sparks' book, *Laugh your way to Grace*

"It was my first funeral as a newly ordained clergy. The funeral was for Mary, the 95-year old matriarch of a large family in my congregation. A beautiful woman full of life and passion, Mary always took pride in her appearance.

When I arrived at the funeral home, I was escorted by Mary's daughter, Nancy, over to the casket to say a prayer. As we bowed our heads, I placed one hand on the daughter's shoulder, and the other I reached into the casket. When I touched the Mary's arm, I froze. It was hard with sharp edges-almost square.

"*What is this?*" I blurted out, pulling my hand out of the casket. (Probably not the most pastoral of responses.)

Nancy opened her eyes, looked down at Mary, and she broke out laughing. "*Oh, I forgot,*" she said pulling out a box from within Mary's sleeve. "*We slipped in a bottle of Miss Clairol hair color for Mama's journey. She always worried that they might not have her exact formula on the other side.*"

We laughed until we cried, and then cried until we started laughing again.

Tears of laughter and tears of mourning are virtually the same. The unfortunate difference is that we learn to share our tears of joy and hide our tears of sorrow. To do so makes us feel strong, as if we somehow beyond the pain and grieving. (*Laugh your way to Grace*, Rev. Susan Sparks, *Walking Together, Finding the Way*; Skylight Paths Publishing, Woodstock, Vermont; 2010, p. 108)