

The 2nd Sunday of Easter

“Holy Humor” Sunday

April 7, 2024

New Hope Lutheran Church
3125 5th Ave S. Great Falls, MT (406) 315-1203
www.newhopegf.org Rev. Tammy Bull



GATHERING

Gathering Music:

Welcome

Prelude:

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen! C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. We give you thanks, O God, for the gift of baptism. C: Amen.

Call to Reconciliation

L: 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, as together we confess our sins.

C: You know better than we do, God, what important people we believe we are. Thinking 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 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. Amen.

L: 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 that this joy is now given to us. Baptized into Christ's death and his resurrection, our sins are forgiven!

C: Thanks be to God!

Gathering Song: This Joyful Eastertide

ELW #391

1. This joyful Eastertide, away with sin and sor-row!

My love, the Crucified, has sprung to life this mor-row.

Refrain: Had Christ, who once was slain, not burst his three-day prison,

Our faith had been in vain. But now has Christ arisen, arisen, arisen, a-risen.

2. My flesh in hope shall rest and for a season slum-ber

Till trump from east to west shall wake the dead in num-ber. (refrain)

3. Death's flood has lost its chill since Jesus crossed the riv-er.

Lover of souls, from ill my passing soul de-li-ver. (refrain)

L: The grace of our risen Lord Jesus Christ, the extraordinary love of God, and the abiding fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

L: Knock-knock. **C: Who's there?** L: Lettuce **C: Lettuce who?**

L: Let us pray... **Glorious and risen Lord, you alone are the source of all our joy. As we stumble through this life, help us to create more laughter than tears, dispense more happiness than gloom, spread more cheer than despair. 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. And Lord, in our final moment, let us hear you whisper: "When you made my people smile, you made me smile." Amen.**

WORD

1st Reading: Acts 4:32-35

R: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God!

All Comers' Choir: *Jubilate Deo (based on Psalm 100)*

arr. Dale Wood

2nd Reading: 1 John 1:1-2:2

R: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation:

ELW p. 142

Alleluia! Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia!

Gospel: John 20:19-31 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

Children's Time

Sermon

Hymn: Touch that Soothes and Heals

ACS #939

1. Touch that soothes and heals the hurting, hands that break a loaf of bread;
Steps that walk beside the weary, bearing burdens in their stead:

Refrain: "See my hands and feet," said Jesus, love arisen from the grave.

"Be my hands and feet," said Jesus, "live as ones I died to save."

2. Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit ones in need of care,
Give the homeless warmth and shelter: Christ will find a welcome there. (ref)
3. Love and serve without distinction all earth's people, first and least.
Know within each act of kindness hope and wholeness are increased. (ref)
4. Hands that beckon little children, bind a wound, prepare a meal,
Feet that rush to share good tidings, Christ arisen, still reveal. (ref)

Call to Laughter

L: This is the time to rejoice!

C: What better time than now!

(At the conclusion of Call to Laughter)

L: What's the greatest joke ever?

C: The one God played on Satan on Easter morning!

L: The peace and joy of our risen Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

C: And also with you!

The Offering *(At this time we bring our gifts and offerings to God in gratitude and joy! In response to God's love, we care for others in the name of Jesus. One of the ways we do this is by being a source of joy and hope for the weary in our community. We appreciate your gifts of time, money, energy, and prayer to this work! If you are our guest today – either in person or online – we invite you to join us in caring for God's people and God's world!)*

L: Knock-knock. **C: Who's there?** L: Phillip **C: Phillip who?**

L: Please Phillip the offering plate when it's passed to you.

Offertory Music:

Offering Response: Create In Me a Clean Heart, O God ELW #186
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free spirit.

Offertory Prayer: **C: Be known to us, O Lord, as you were made known to the disciples. Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

P: Rejoicing in the resurrection of Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. (*petitions end: "Hear us, O God... Your mercy is great."*)

L: Glorious & risen Lord Jesus, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray... **C: 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.**

SENDING

L: The joy of Easter, the glee of the (+) Lord Jesus Christ, the mirth of God, and the laughter of the Holy Spirit, be with you all this day and forever. **C: Amen.**

Hymn: Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia

ELW #364

1. Christ has arisen, alleluia. Rejoice and praise him, alleluia.
For our redeemer burst from the tomb,
even from death, dispelling its gloom.

REFRAIN: Let us sing praise to him with endless joy.

Death's fearful sting he has come to destroy.

Our sin forgiving, alleluia! Jesus is living, alleluia!

2. For three long days he grave did its worst

until its strength by God was dispersed.

He who gives life did death undergo, and in its conquest his might did show.

(refrain)

3. The angel said to them, "Do not fear. You look for Jesus who is not here.

See for yourselves the tomb is all bare. Only the grave-clothes are lying there."

(refrain)

4. "Go spread the news: he's not in the grave. He has arisen this world to save.

Jesus' redeeming labors are done. Even the battle with sin is won." (refrain)

5. Christ has arisen to set us free. Alleluia, to him praises be.

Jesus is living! Let us all sing; he reigns triumphant, heavenly king. (refrain)

L: Go in laughter; live in grace.

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen! **C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Postlude:

Organist: James Rickley

Song Leader: Gaynell Tempel

Reader: Carol Strom

Fellowship: Marv & Carol Strom

THANK YOU... to the many people who helped make our Holy Week and Easter celebrations meaningful: musicians, worship leaders, office volunteers, A/V team, ushers/greeters, cleaning and set up teams, and all those who worshiped with us!



Announcements for the week of April 7:

- Today: GF Community Band concert at 2 pm in the sanctuary
- Handbells rehearse in the sanctuary 5:40 pm

COMING SOON...

- Family Promise SOC-HOP fundraiser at the Elk's Lodge – Sat. 4/27 – 5:30 – 10:00 pm

Attributions: Thank you to Pastor Cheryl Hoops for sharing her “Holy Humor” liturgy which is taken, in part from Fellowship of Merry Christians resources, and has been adapted for today’s worship.

This Joyful Eastertide (ELW #391) Text: George R. Woodward. Music: Dutch folk tune; arr. hymnal version.

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