

The 2nd Sunday of Easter

“Holy Humor” Sunday

April 27, 2025

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



GATHERING

Gathering Music: *The Heavenly Sunlight*

George H. Cook/ arr. Mark Hayes

Welcome

Prelude: *In the Garden*

C. Austin Miles / arr. Mark Hayes

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 5:27-32

R: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God!

Responsive reading of Psalm 150

L: Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary;

C: praise him in his mighty firmament!

L: Praise him for his mighty deeds;

C: praise him according to his surpassing greatness!

L: Praise him with trumpet sound;

C: praise him with lute and harp!

L: Praise him with tambourine and dance;

C: praise him with strings and pipe!

L: Praise him with clanging cymbals;

C: praise him with loud clashing cymbals!

L: Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!

C: Praise the Lord!

2nd Reading: Revelation 1:4-8

R: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation:

ELW p. 188

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

Alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.

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

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

Children's Time

Sermon

Hymn: That Easter Day with Joy was Bright

ACS #384

1. That Easter day with joy was bright; the sun shone out with fairer light when, to their longing eyes restored, the apostles saw their risen Lord!
2. O Jesus, king of gentleness, with constant love our hearts possess; to you our lips will ever raise the tribute of our grateful praise.
3. O Christ you are the Lord of all in this our Easter festival, for you will be our strength and shield from every weapon death can wield.
4. All praise, O risen Lord, we give to you, once dead, but now alive! To God the Father equal praise, and God the Spirit, now we raise!

Today we welcome Seth Butler as a new member!

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 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.**

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: *He Hideth My Soul*

William J. Kirkpatrick/ arr. Mark Hayes

Offertory Response: Lord of Light (v. 1 only)

ELW #688

Lord of light, your name outshining all the stars and suns of space,
Use our talents in your kingdom as the servants of your grace;
Use us to fulfill your purpose in the gift of Christ your Son.
Father, as in highest heaven, so on earth your will be done.

Offertory Prayer: **C: Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. Amen.**

Prayers of the People (petitions end: "God of grace,... **hear our prayer.**")

L: Glorious & risen Lord Jesus, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to boldly 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 the 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: *When the Roll is Called Up Yonder* James M. Black / arr. Mark Hayes

Organist: James Rickley

Song Leader: Jodie Tooley

Reader: Melanie Jensen

Fellowship:

Altar Care: Vicki Evans & Victoria Bull

Special Offering for April is the Children's Receiving Home

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 27:

- ELCA text study group from noon – 2 pm in the Library.
- Wed. 4/30 WOW! Children’s ministry from 6-7 pm (simple supper, Bible story, and activity) in the Social Hall.
- Sat. 5/3 Family Promise dinner & dance fundraiser at the Elk’s Lodge from 5-10 pm. The theme is dancing through the decades! Prizes for best costume. Get tickets online at familypromisegf.org or call 406-590-2610.

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. Liturgical texts and music used by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies License #SB159291. All rights reserved. Additional gathering, prelude, offertory, and postlude music may be found in the public domain. Permission to reprint, podcast, and/or livestream the text, translation, and music in this service obtained from OneLicense #A-727837. All rights reserved.