

Easter 2
“Holy Humor Sunday”



Word and Sacrament

“Not Just Going to Church, but BEING the Church”

Saint Bartholomew Lutheran Church

April 12, 2026 11:00AM



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Welcome to Worship!

Welcome to Worship!

This morning, we celebrate the 2nd Sunday in Easter: Holy Humor Sunday! The lyrics to the hymns are in the red hymnals in the pews. We extend special greetings to all our guests who are with us today. Your presence, along with our members and friends, is truly valued. Know that all of God's people are always welcome here at St. Bartholomew.

Holy Communion

Saint Bart's celebrates the real presence of Jesus through the bread and wine. We invite all to come and share. At the time of communion, you will come up to the altar and receive communion. Pastor will come to you if you choose to remain in the pew.

Praying People

Everyone is invited to offer their prayer concerns during the Prayers of the Church.

2nd Sunday in Easter: Holy Humor Sunday!

"Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, 'The Lord has done great things for them.' The Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with joy." (Psalm 126:2-3, NIV)

Everyone needs a good laugh once in a while. The second Sunday of the Easter Season is the perfect time for worshipers to laugh together as a growing number of congregations, including ELCA Lutherans, celebrate Holy Humor Sunday.

A way both to continue the Easter celebration and to combat [Low Sunday](#), the celebration comes from the early church tradition of Bright Sunday. The week after Resurrection Day was a time of joy and laughter. Churches actively encouraged the faithful to be merry and celebrate the miracle of Christ's Resurrection. Communities would often throw parties with dances, jokes and even pranks.

Today Holy Humor Sunday is a way to continue the Easter celebration in creative and hilarious ways. Pastors dress up in funny clothes and tell jokes from the pulpit. Choirs and church bands play upbeat and lighthearted music. Some churches dress their sanctuary with balloons and party decorations.

Announcements

Enid's Pantry will be open Saturday, April 25th at 10am.

Spanish Service Saturday, April 25th at 9am.

Spring Cleaning April 18th at 10AM.

Bible Study- Sundays at 9:45AM.

We can use any food or monetary donations to help our community in need.

Are there any other announcements?

Bell/Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Thanksgiving for Baptism

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne
and to the Lamb!

C **Amen.**

P Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.

P Merciful God,
You are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.
You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the
waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring
waves. We thank you for the waters that nourish us
especially the Delaware River. Blessed are you.

C **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

P Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies
us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving
death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy
and sorrow. Blessed are you.

C **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

P Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup
overflows. Break down barriers that divide us.
Fill us with the breath of peace.
Blessed are you.

C You guide us to springs of the water of life.

**P Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,
and for making us a new creation.**

We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and
praise, now and forever.

C Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 289

Angels We Have Heard on High



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



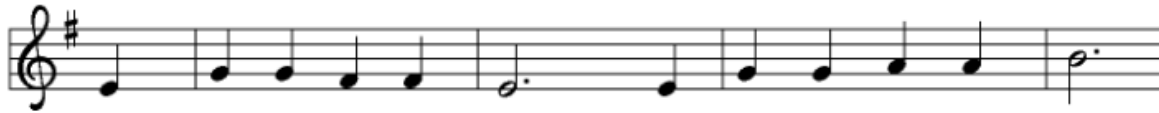
Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864
Music: GLORIA, French carol

APOSTOLIC GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you**

Y Kyrie



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

Canticle of Praise



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.

Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen**

WORD

A I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth (Psalm 34:1). Lord, bless the reading of your word. Make it come alive in our midst.

C **Amen.**

First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]: "Fellow Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law.

But God raised him up, having released him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him, ‘I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover, my flesh will live in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades or let your Holy One experience corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

“Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne.³¹ Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, ‘He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.’ “This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.”

A Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 16

- A Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;
I have said to the LORD, “You are my Lord, my good above
all other.”
- C **All my delight is in the godly that are in the land,
upon those who are noble among the people.**
- A But those who run after other gods
shall have their troubles multiplied.
- C **I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods,
never take their names upon my lips.**
- A O LORD, you are my portion and my cup;
it is you who uphold my lot.
- C **My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;
indeed, I have a rich inheritance.**
- A I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel;
my heart teaches me night after night.
- C **I have set the LORD always before me;
because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.**
- A My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;
my body also shall rest in hope.
- C **For you will not abandon me to the grave,
nor let your holy one see the pit.**
- A You will show me the path of life; in your presence there is
fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures
forevermore.

Second Reading: **1 Peter 1:3-9**

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead ⁴ and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷ so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

L Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God**

Gospel Acclamation



P The Holy Gospel according to John the 20th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 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." 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." 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." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" 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." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

P The Gospel of the Lord

C Praise to you O Christ.

SERMON

Hymn of the Day: ELW# 626

By Gracious Powers



1 By gra - cious pow'rs so won - der - ful - ly shel - tered,
2 Yet is this heart by its old foe tor - ment - ed,
3 And when this cup you give is filled to brim - ming
4 Yet when a - gain in this same world you give us
5 By gra - cious pow'rs so faith - ful - ly pro - tect - ed,



and con - fi - dent - ly wait - ing come what may,
still e - vil days bring bur - dens hard to bear;
with bit - ter suf - f'ring, hard to un - der - stand,
the joy we had, the bright - ness of your sun,
so qui - et - ly, so won - der - ful - ly near,



we know that God is with us night and morn - ing,
oh, give our fright - ened souls the sure sal - va - tion,
we take it thank - ful - ly and with - out trem - bling
we shall re - mem - ber all the days we lived through
we live each day in hope, with you be - side us,



and nev - er fails to greet us each new day.
for which, O Lord, you taught us to pre - pare.
out of so good and so be - loved a hand.
and our whole life shall then be yours a - lone.
and go with you through ev - 'ry com - ing year.

Text: Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 1906–1945; tr. Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000
Music: TELOS, Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950
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PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

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

PRAYERS

Each petition ends:

A Merciful God C **Receive our prayer**

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

Almighty God, you give life to the dead and call into existence things that do not exist. Breathe your Spirit upon us, that our faith may be renewed day by day. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Maker of heaven and earth, your mercies are new every morning. Open us to the wonders of creation, from the beauty of flowers to the complexity of subatomic particles. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of peace, in every place where conflict rages, sow seeds of calm and openness to reconciliation. Strengthen the resolve of leaders and citizens to work for peace in their nations. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Healing God, come alongside all who are doubting, fearful, or suffering in any way *especially* Jimmy, Mark, Moreland, Joe, Nick, Bob, Justin, Billy, Gloria, Rosemary, Tom, Rich, Heather, and Gail. Reveal to them your presence and assure them of the inheritance you have prepared for them. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Giver of joy, let this assembly be a place of genuine love and mutual affection. Deepen our care for one another and help us to embody your forgiving and sacrificial love. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Eternal One, we give thanks for saints who were faithful unto death and have joined the church triumphant. Inspire us by their witness and bring us with them into your glorious presence. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

(PASTOR) God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

C Amen.

THE OFFERING

Online offering: <https://www.stbartlutheran.net/donate>

OFFERING PRAYER

A Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love.

In the name of Jesus,

C Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

- P The Lord be with you
C **And also with you.**
P Lift up your hearts.
C. **We lift them to the Lord.**
P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
C. **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

- P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
almighty and eternal Father,
and in these days of Easter to celebrate with joyful hearts
the memory of your wonderful works.
For by the mystery of his passion Jesus Christ, your risen
Son, has conquered the powers of death and hell
and restored in men and women the image of your glory.
He has placed them once more in paradise and opened to
them the gate of life eternal.
And so, in the joy of this Passover, earth and heaven
resound with gladness; while angels and archangels and the
powers of all creation sing forever the hymn of your glory:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Blessed are you, O God, creator of heaven and earth.
 You rescued your covenant people, led them on all their
 journeys, and taught them by the prophets. You so loved
 the world that you gave your only Son, so that
 everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have
 eternal life.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took
 bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his
 disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for
 you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for
 all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit in this meal, and make us one in this
community of faith and with your people throughout the world.

Glory and praise to you, O God, Author of life, Word made
flesh, Power of the Most High, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus
taught us.

**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 kingdom, the power, and the glory, now and
forever. Amen.**

Invitation

P Come to the table of new life.

Receive the risen Lord!

Distribution

Blessing

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace

C **Amen.**

Post Communion Blessing

P Holy One,
through this meal you have made your home among us
and are making all things new.

Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts,
to love our enemies,
and to bring your healing to the nations.

In the name of Jesus,

C **Amen**

+Sending+

Benediction

P God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,
✠ bless you now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sending Hymn TFF 266

Victory Is Mine



1 Vic-to-ry is mine; vic-to-ry is mine; vic-to-ry to-day is mine.
2 Joy is mine; joy is mine; joy to-day is mine.
3 Peace is mine; peace is mine; peace to-day is mine.



I told Sa - tan, "Get thee be-hind." Vic-to-ry to-day is mine.
I told Sa - tan, "Get thee be-hind." Joy to-day is mine.
I told Sa - tan, "Get thee be-hind." Peace to-day is mine.

Text: traditional
Music: VICTORY IS MINE, traditional

Dismissal.

A Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

C **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Postlude