

*"Bonded in Christ's love, we teach, preach, and equip God's people
for discipleship here and throughout the world."*



Second Sunday of Easter Holy Humor Sunday with Holy Communion April 19, 2020

*Many American churches are resurrecting an old
Easter custom begun by early Greek Christians—*

*"Bright Sunday" of "Holy Humor Sunday" celebrations on the Sunday after
Easter. For centuries in all Christian faith traditions, the week following Easter
Sunday was observed as "days of joy and laughter" with parties and picnics
to celebrate Jesus' "Easter laugh." Church goers and pastors played practical
jokes on each other, told jokes, sang and danced. The custom slowly
vanished in the last century as belief in the resurrection declined. In 1988, the
Fellowship of Merry Christians began encouraging churches to resurrect
Bright Sunday services with the theme: "Jesus is the Life of the Party!" This
Sunday Zion's theme is: "Jesus Loves Zion's Church Family!"*

Prelude & Bell

Pastor's Opening Monologue

Easter Gathering

P- In today's gospel the risen Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace.

C- In your presence there is fullness of joy. *Psalm 16 11*

P- Even amid doubts and questions, we experience the resurrection in our Sunday gathering around the word and meal, and in our everyday lives.

C- In your presence there is fullness of joy. *Luke 16:11*

Gathering Hymn – ELW #595, Jesus Loves Me

**Jesus loves me! for the Bible tells me so;
little ones to him belong, they are weak but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus love me, the Bible tells me so.**

**Jesus loves me! he who died heaven's gate to open wide;
he will wash away my sin, let his little child come in.
Yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus love me, the Bible tells me so.**

**Jesus loves me! He will stay close beside me all the way;
when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high.
Yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.**

Thanksgiving for Baptism

All may make the sign of the cross that is marked at baptism as the pastor begins.

P- Joined with Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are raised with him to new life.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

C- Amen

P- As we approach the mystery of God, let us come in confession,
trusting Christ crucified and risen.

Water is poured from the baptismal pitcher into the baptismal basin.

P- We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning you created us in your image

C- and planted us in a well-watered garden.

P- In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched,

C- and you gave us water from the rock.

P- When we did not know the way,

C- you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters.

P- At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side,

C- and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.

P- We praise you for your salvation through the water,

**C- for the water in this font,
and for all water everywhere.**

With what shall we come before you?

P- Bathe us your forgiveness, grace, and love.

C- Satisfy the thirsty, and give us the life only you can give.

P- To you be given honor and praise

through Jesus Christ our Lord

in the unity + of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C- Amen.

Children's Time – Seeing is Believing

Readings

1st Peter 1:3-9

Lector – The Epistle was written to encourage Christians experiencing hardships and suffering because of the faith in Christ. The letter opens by blessing God for the living hope we have through Christ's resurrection even amid difficult circumstances and surroundings.

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, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, 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 honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. 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, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. Here ends this reading.

Prayer of the Day

As you are able, please stand.

P- Almighty and eternal God,

C- 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 God's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Gospel – John 20:19-31

P- The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering then a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. But one of their number is missing, and his unbelief prompts another visit from the Lord.

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.”** 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, which are not written in this book. 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 the Lord.

C- Praise to you, O Lord! *Please be seated.*

Message – Holy Humor Sunday

Offering Hymn – ELW #471. Let Us Break Bread Together

**Let us break bread together on our knees;
let us break bread together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)**

**Let us drink wine together on our knees;
let us drink wine together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)**

**Let us praise God together on our knees;
let us praise God together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)**

Offering Prayer

P- Our merciful God,

C- our ordinary gifts seem small for such a celebration,
but you make of them an abundance,
just as you do with our lives.

**Feed us again at this table
for service in your name,
in the strength of the risen Christ . Amen**

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

**the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the
dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of the Church – *When the pastor says, “Lord in your mercy”
please respond by saying, “**hear our prayer.**”*

Words of Institution

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.**

P- Come to the banquet. Behold the risen Christ!

Distribution of Holy Communion

Announcements in the Life of Our Church

NEXT SUNDAY Rogation Sunday

Blessing & Dismissal

P- May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead,
raise you to new life, fill you with hope,
and turn your mourning into dancing.
Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

C- Amen.

P- Christ is risen, just as he said.
Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

C- Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

ZION...a place to belong, a place to believe, a place to become!

Sending Hymn – ELW #884

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, + Son, and Holy Ghost!**