

“Landmark of the Gospel Since 1834”

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

Our Purpose: Led by the Word of God, St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church is a family who lives and shares the gospel of Jesus Christ through love and service to all.

April 12, 2026

10:30 AM

Holy Humor/Easter 2

Today's Holy Humor Sunday has its roots in history. For centuries, in Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant countries, Easter Monday and "Bright Sunday (the Sunday after Easter) were observed by the faithful as "days of joy and laughter" with parties and picnics to celebrate Jesus' resurrection. Parishioners and pastors played practical jokes on each other, drenched each other with water, sang, and danced. It was a time for clergy and people to tell jokes and to have fun. The custom of Easter Monday and Bright Sunday celebrations were rooted in the musings of early church theologians (like Augustine, Gregory of Nyssa, and John Chrysostom) that God played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead. Easter was "God's supreme joke played on death." "Risus paschalis – the Easter laugh," the early theologians called it.

Our 2026 Holy Humor Sunday theme is “Silly Hat Sunday”

After the ringing of the bell...

PRELUDE

GREETING:

This is the day that the Lord has made!

We will rejoice - and laugh - in it!

CONFESSION IS GOOD FOR THE SOUL

God won't ask what kind of car we drove,

God will ask how many people we drove who didn't have a ride

God won't ask the square footage of our house,

God will ask how many people we welcomed into our home.

God won't ask about the clothes we had in our closet,

God will ask how many we helped to clothe.

God won't ask what our highest salary was,

God will ask if we compromised our character to get it.

God won't ask what our job title was,

God will ask if we performed our job to the best of our ability.

God won't ask what neighborhood we lived in,

God will ask how we treated our neighbors.

God won't ask about the color of our skin,

God will ask about the content of our character.

OPENING SONG

Coffee, Coffee, Coffee (sung to the tune of Holy, Holy, Holy)

Coffee, coffee, coffee,

Praise the strength of coffee,

Early in the morn we rise with thoughts of only thee

Served fresh or reheated,

Dark by thee defeated,

Brewed black by perk or drip or instantly.

**Though all else we scoff we
Come to church for coffee;
If we're late to congregate, we come in time for thee.
Coffee our one ritual,
Drinking it habitual,
Brewed black by perk, or drip or instantly.**

**Coffee the communion
Of our blessed Union
Symbol of our sacred ground, our one necessity.
Feel the holy power,
At our coffee hour,
Brewed black by perk or drip or instantly**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord, as we stumble through this life, help us to create more laughter than tears, dispense more happiness than gloom, and 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. May we share with one another the healing and wholeness shared with us through your Son Jesus Christ, so that this Easter season will surely make a difference in the lives of those around us. Help us to share your holy humor with your creation. In Jesus' name, Amen.

THE ONE LINERS CREED *Read Responsively*

99.9% percent of politicians give the rest a bad name

Borrow money from a pessimist -- they don't expect it back

I named my dog, "Five Miles", so I can tell people I walk five miles every day.

Lottery: A tax on people who are bad at math

My cousin's so country, his GPS just says, "Y'all turn left sometime soon."

I only know 25 letters of the alphabet—I don't know y.

It's lonely at the top; but you do eat better

Always go to other people's funerals, or they won't go to yours

Few women admit their age; few men act it

If at first you don't succeed, then skydiving isn't for you

No one is listening until you make a mistake

Give me ambiguity or give me something else

My brother was a clown for the Ringling Brothers Circus and when he died all his friends went to the funeral in one car.

We have enough youth. How about a fountain of "Smart"?

Always remember that you are unique; just like everyone else

There are three kinds of people: Those who can count and those who can't

SCRIPTURE READING 1 Peter 1:3-9 (CEV)

³ Praise God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is so good, and by raising Jesus from death, he has given us new life and a hope that lives on. ⁴ God has something stored up for you in heaven, where it will never decay or be ruined or disappear.

⁵ You have faith in God, whose power will protect you until the last day.^[a] Then he will save you, just as he has always planned to do. ⁶ On that day you will be glad, even if you have to go through many hard trials for a while. ⁷ Your faith will be like gold that has been tested in a fire. And these trials will prove that your faith is worth much more than gold that can be destroyed. They will show that you will be given praise and honor and glory when Jesus Christ returns.

⁸ You have never seen Jesus, and you don't see him now. But still you love him and have faith in him, and no words can tell how glad and happy ⁹ you are to be saved. This is why you have faith.

PSALM 135

Paraphrase from Leslie Brandt's "Psalms Now"

Despite the depressing conditions of our world and the distortions of our society, or even the problem and conflicts of our lives let us take time to praise the Lord

We who gather for services of worship, let us come together to celebrate God's presence

As we find our place in our work day world, let us begin by praising the Lord

when we meet with our family and friends, let us unite our voices in praises to the Lord

the farmer who labors alone with the soil and seed can praise that God brings forth the fruit

the city dweller who mingles with the masses and works amid the tall structures can praise because God knows and loves him forever.

Without our God to praise and worship and serve there is not real purpose in life,

no meaning, no identity and no reason for existing in this cold, calculating world.

When you feel you are forgotten, your loving God never forgets

when you are tired and lonely, your great God will never leave you.

Just a song for the heck of it.

SONG

We Lack the Gift of Laughter (sung to the tune for The Church's One Foundation)

We lack the gift of laughter;

Faith sits all pale and glum,

Hope dozes on a rafter,

and Love is stricken dumb

Come, Christ, into our drabness,

tell us that matchless jest

of life and resurrection,

your sweetest and your best.

Upon a foolish cross, Lord,

you hung to make us mirth;
 but there you conquered loss, Lord,
 old death became new birth.
 Come everlasting joy; Christ,
 confirm that matchless jest
 of life and resurrection,
 your sweetest and your best.

INTRO TO CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

On the first day of Sunday school the teacher finished the lessons and asked for questions. "I've got one," said a boy. "According to the Bible, the children of Israel crossed the Red Sea, right?"

"That's right," said the teacher.

"And the children of Israel defeated the Philistines and the Egyptians, and they build the Temple, and they were always doing something important, right?"

"That's right," said the teacher again. "So what's the question?"

"Well," demanded the boy, "what were the grownups doing all that time?"

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

PROCLAMATION

EASTER SONG

Deck the Halls with Easter Lilies

**Deck the halls with Easter lilies,
 Fa-la-la-la-la--le-lu-i-a!
 Dance a jig and sing the sillies,
 Fa-la-la-la-la--le-lu-i-a!
 At the devil, mean, old bloke,
 Fa-la-la-la-la--le-lu-i-a!
 On whom God has played a joke,
 Fa-la-la-la-la--le-lu-i-a!**

**Devil thought he'd won the battle,
 Fa-la-la-la-la-- le-lu-i-a!
 Pranced around high in the saddle,
 Fa-la-la-la-la-- le-lu-i-a!
 Did not know God's special plan,
 Fa-la-la-la-la-- le-lu-i-a!
 To resurrect the Son of Man,
 Fa-la-la-la-la-- le-lu-i-a!**

**Merry Christians rejoice and sing,
 Fa-la-la-la-la-- le-lu-i-a!
 Now's the triumph of our King,
 Fa-la-la-la-la-- le-lu-i-a!
 Lord of Life is ris'n this day,
 Fa-la-la-la-la-- le-lu-i-a!
 Let the world rejoice and say,**

“TWENTY PUNS IN 2 MINUTES”

SHARING OF THE PEACE

TIME TO PASS THE PLATE

A \$100 bill, a \$20 bill and a \$1 bill at the end of their useful lives were together, about to be shredded. The \$100 says, "I've seen the whole world during my lifetime, Why, I've bee on cruises in the Caribbean, safaris in Africa, and vacations in Europe."

The \$20 says, "Well, I've not done quite as well as you, but I have been to Atlantic City, Disneyland, and Starbucks."

They both turn to the \$1 and ask, "How ?bout you? Where have you been?"

Not wanting to be outdone, the \$1 says, "I've seen the whole country as well - going from church to church to church."

The \$100 asks, "What's a church?"

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

"The Lord loves a cheerful giver," or a better translation might be, "The Lord loves a hilarious giver!" Let us give freely and gladly, out of a heart of joy and laughter.

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

You may have heard about the little girl who was learning The Lord's Prayer, and she was doing pretty well, carefully repeating the lines just as her mom told her. One night she was ready to go solo, and launched in all by herself. She got everything just right, with just one little mistake: "Lead us not into temptation, she prayed, and deliver us from Email."

Let us pray together...

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Each petition ends, "Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**"

LORD'S PRAYER *Holy Humor Version*

Let us pray...

Hear us, God of joy, in our laughter and in our tears too, as we offer our prayer: Our Father in Heaven, let your holy name be known, let your kingdom come, and your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today the bread that we need, and forgive us our wrongs, and OK, we'll forgive those who have done wrong to us too. Do not lead us into trial, but save us from evil. For we want for you alone to rule in our hearts; you have power to transform, and in the light of your smile is your glory. Amen.

GROANERS

BLESSING PRAYERS

Lord, send me a surprise,

One that catches me off guard and makes me wonder.

Lord send me a resurrection

When everything looks dead and buried.

Send me light
When the night seems too long.
 Send me spring
When the cold and frozen season seems endless
 Send me a new Idea
when my mind is empty
 Send me a new friend
When I am alone
 Send me peace
When I am afraid
 Send me a future
When it looks hopeless.
 Send me Your resurrection Jesus
When my time on earth is done

EASTER SONG *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*
(with special Kazoo introduction)

**Joyful Joyful we adore thee.
 God of glory Lord of love
 Hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
 Praising thee their sun above.
 Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
 Drive the gloom of doubt away.
 Giver of immortal gladness,
 Fill us with the light of day.**

**All thy works with joy surround thee,
 Earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
 Stars and angels sing around thee,
 Center of unbroken praise.
 Field and forest, vale and mountain,
 Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea
 Chanting bird and flowing fountain
 Call us to rejoice in thee.**

**Thou art giving and forgiving,
 Ever blessing ever blest.
 Well spring of the joy of living,
 Ocean depth of happy rest!
 Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
 All who live in love are thine;
 Teach us how to love each other,
 Lift us to the joy divine!**

ENCORE JOKE

BLESSING

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, to live and share the gospel of Jesus Christ through love and service to all.

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