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Holy Humor Sunday- April 7th, 2024
9:30 A.M.

We would like to give special thanks to our worship leaders.

WORSHIP LEADERS & VOLUNTEERS

Pastor: Gary Schaeffer

Director of Music: John Warfel

Assistant Director of Music: Nancy Walters

Worship assistant: Karen Fry

Greeters: Karl and Lois Snyder

Communion Assistant: Chuck Stahl and Helen Billhime

Worship Set Up: Penny Ulmer

In Person & LIVE streamed from the Sanctuary at Milton
Lutheran Church at

9:30am on the Milton Lutheran Church YouTube Channel. Visit
<https://miltonlutheranchurch.org> to link to the LIVE worship.

WELCOME TO HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY!

The idea of setting aside one Sunday each year to celebrate God's gift of laughter and joy may be new to me, but it's got a long and rich history in many congregations around the world.

Laughter Sunday (also known as *Holy Humor Sunday*, *Hilarity Sunday*, *God's Laughter Sunday*, *Bright Sunday* or *Holy Fools Sunday*) has its roots in a number of different Christian traditions.

Churches in 15th century Bavaria used to celebrate the Sunday after Easter as *Risus Paschalis* ('God's Joke,' or 'the Easter laugh'). Priests would deliberately include amusing stories and jokes in their sermons in an attempt to make the faithful

laugh. After the service, people would gather together to play practical jokes on one another and tell funny stories. It was their way of celebrating the resurrection of Christ – the supreme joke God played on Satan by raising Jesus from the dead.

The observance of *Risus Paschalis* was officially outlawed by Pope Clement X in the 17th century. Perhaps people were having too much fun.

In the Orthodox tradition, people would gather on Easter Monday to tell jokes and funny stories, and to dance and eat together.

Other traditions celebrate *Laetare Sunday* (also known as ‘Mothering Sunday’) on the fourth Sunday in Lent. “Laetare” simply means ‘rejoice,’ and comes from the opening collect for that day: *‘Rejoice with joy, you that have been in sorrow.’* On this Sunday, the usual Lenten purple vestments and altar cloths are replaced by rose-coloured ones instead. Flowers (not normally present during Lent) are also brought into the sanctuary.

In 1988, the Fellowship of Merry Christians began encouraging churches to resurrect some of these Christian traditions—to celebrate the grace and mercy of God through the gift of laughter and joy.

GATHERING SONGS (PRACTICE 6 SONGS)

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

SONGS: The Littlest Worm/Don't Chuck Your Muck

The Littlest Worm (Echo Each line, then sing verse together)

The littlest worm

I ever saw

Was stuck inside

My soda straw! (repeat all together)

He said to me

Don't take a sip

For if you do

You'll really flip! (repeat)

I took a sip

And he went down

All through my pipes

He surely drowned! (repeat)

Now don't you fret

Now don't you fear

That little worm

Had scuba gear (repeat)

He swam right up

And out my mouth

The last I heard

He headed south (repeat all together)

That is the end

There is no more

Unless I meet

That worm once more (repeat all together)

Don't Chuck Your Muck (Sung in a round)

Don't chuck your muck in my backyard,
my backyard, my backyard,
Don't chuck your muck in my backyard,
My backyard's FULL!

One bottle of pop, two bottle of pop, three bottle of pop,
four bottle of pop, five bottle of pop, six bottle of pop,
seven bottle of pop, POP!

Fish and chips and vinegar, vinegar, vinegar,
Fish and chips and vinegar, vinegar and POP!

CALL TO WORSHIP

We believe in God, who made us in His image.

We live, we love, we laugh, because we are like Him.

We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Lord and Savior.

He had the last laugh on the devil when He rose from the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

coequal and coeternal with the Father and the Son.

Our counselor, our guide, our motivator – He is our joy!

Forgive us, Lord, when we take ourselves too seriously,
when we don't claim the happiness that is rightfully ours as your
children, when we forget that you will have the last laugh in this
world.

***Restore to us the joy of our salvation, through Jesus Christ our
Lord. Amen***

VIDEO- Zen and Zach Present the Gospel

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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 we pray, saying,

*You know better than we do, Amused God,
what important people we believe we are.
Believing 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.*

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.

Through the Holy Spirit, we are gifted with joy.

*We are sent forth to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bring healing to the broken,*

to anoint everyone with the oil of gladness.

Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERMON: “The Story of a Promise Kept”

SONGS: The Hippo Song/Hallelujah Praise Ye the Lord

The Hippo Song

In the beginning God made the seas and the forest filled with trees.

He made the mountains up so high above it all He placed the skies.

God's fingerprints are everywhere just to show how much He cares.

And in the middle He had lots of fun! He made a hippo that weighs a ton.

Hip, hip, hip, hippopotamus. Hip, hip hooray God made all of us.

Hip, hip, hip, hippopotamus. Hip, hip hooray God made all of us.

Hallelujah Praise Ye The Lord

Hallelu! Hallelu! Hallelu! Hallelujah!

Praise ye the Lord!

Hallelu! Hallelu! Hallelu! Hallelujah!

Praise ye the Lord!

Praise ye the Lord! Hallelujah!

Praise ye the Lord! Hallelujah!

Praise ye the Lord! Hallelujah!

Praise ye the Lord!

PRAYERS

O holy Source of laughter, thank you for giving us the gift.

For all things harmlessly quaint, incongruous, and unexpectedly absurd:

for pomposity that falls on its face,
for children chuckling over a riddle,
for lovers enjoying each other's quirks of character,
for cartoonists 'sending up' political arrogance,
for explorers cracking jokes in the face of danger,
for the terminally ill who laugh with their nurses,
for the saints who throw laughter into the jaws of evil.

For Jesus and his quirky sayings.

the camel attempting to squeeze through the eye of a needle.

the man with a plank in his eye

who tries to shift a speck from a neighbour's eye.

the woman who bakes bread for her family 100 kilos of it!

the man (having a 'senior's moment'?) who lights a lamp,
only to put it under a bed.

the dead who want to bury the dead,

the woman who on finding one lost coin, throws a party,

For the New Testament faith that can laugh because it knows nothing can cut us off from the love of Christ—

“neither a host of troubles nor deep distress,
neither persecution nor starvation,
neither nakedness, peril nor sword,
not anything in life or in death,
will be able to separate us
from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

O holy Source of laughter, thank you for giving us the gift,
and for the faith and hope that allows us to employ it to the full.

*We laugh because you first laugh on our behalf.
Thanks a million! Amen.*

COMMUNION

May the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

May your hearts be lightened and filled with God's love!

We lift up our hearts and praise God above.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, God our Father.

We thank God and praise Him – it isn't a bother!

It is right and good-ful; holy and wonderful; blessed and joyful;

To give thanks to you God, Almighty and faithful.

For it's you that has given us this worship time,

Filled with laughter, some holy humor and rhyme.

It's you that has shown us your holy love,

That you have sent from heaven high up above.

And so, with your angels who first sang your song,
We proclaim your goodness by singing along:
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven is filled with your marvelous glory;
Earth is filled with your light.
Blessed is he who comes in your name –
“Hosanna on high!” we loudly proclaim. *Hosanna on High!*

Holy God, it's your Son we remember today,
Jesus Christ, the anointed, whom we try to obey.
He encouraged the poor and freed the oppressed,
And taught us that you care about the distressed.
Through his suffering, death, and resurrection,
He taught that Your grace beats out our imperfection.
He ascended to Heaven and sits there beside you,
But still remains with us in all that we do.

On the night he was taken, he lifted some bread,
He blessed it, and broke it, and here's what he said:
“Dear friends, this is my body to you that I give.
Take it; share it: in you I will live.
From now on, whenever, wherever you meet
Remember our time when this bread here you eat.”

When supper was over, he then took the cup,
With praise and thanksgiving he lifted it up:
“For the New Covenant, this is my blood;
A sign of the Lord's continuing love.

For God has forgiven your every mistake,
So trust in God's love when this drink you partake.”

May we offer ourselves for God's greater glory,
And proclaim what we know of this fabulous story:

*Christ Jesus: he died, but then rose again!
He'll return here on earth: Hallelujah! Amen.*

Holy Spirit, come down on us gathered here,
With this bread and this fruit of the vine please appear.
Make holy this food, fill us with your grace,
So we proclaim gospel to the whole human race.
We love you, Lord Jesus, we'll shout out again
Your glory and honor: ***Amen and Amen!***

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.*

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

SONGS DURING COMMUNION – Awesome God/Fill My Cup

Awesome God

Our God is an awesome God
He reigns from heaven above
With wisdom, power, and love
Our God is an awesome God

Fill My Cup

Fill my cup let it overflow,
Fill my cup let it overflow,
Fill my cup let it overflow
Let it overflow with love.

Jesus loves me this I know,
For the Bible tells me so,
Little ones to him belong
They are weak, but he is strong.

Fill my cup let it overflow,
Fill my cup let it overflow,
Fill my cup let it overflow
Let it overflow with love.

Amazing grace how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me one day,
I once was lost but now I'm found
I was blind but now I see.

Fill my cup let it overflow,
Fill my cup let it overflow,
Fill my cup let it overflow
Let it overflow with love.

COMMUNION BLESSING

May the God of hope
fill you up with joy,
fill you up with peace,
so that your lives,
filled with the life-giving energy of the Holy Spirit,
will brim over with hope! **AMEN**

SENDING

Together we at the Milton Lutheran Church
Foster community through faith love and service.
Go forth in faith, to live out our mission.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE - 'We are Marching in the Light of God'



MILTON
Lutheran Church

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CHANNEL TO CONNECT WITH US ONLINE

SOURCES: Sundaysandseasons.com

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Church Office Hours

Monday- Thursday 9:00 A.M.- 2:00 P.M.

Friday- Sunday Office Closed

Pastor's Office Hours

Monday- Thursday 10:00 A.M.- 2:00 P.M.

Please contact Pastor Gary to make an appointment.

Contact Us

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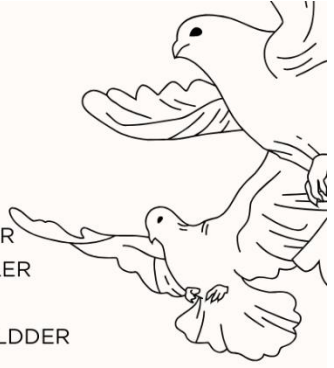
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Prayer Requests



PRAYER LIST

MATT SPANGLER
KENNETH GAUGLER
JUDY FARR
BARBARA ASHENFELDDER
LYNN RICE
SELECA ROBENOLT
FAMILY OF WENDY FILBERT
FAMILY OF TYLER DAVID MORTON
DAVE ROBINSON
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