

## Worship & Holy Communion

### HOLY HOLY HUMOR!

Sunday, May 21, 2023 9:30 a.m.



Long ago, in many Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant countries, Easter Monday traditionally was observed as “a day of joy and laughter” with parties and picnics to celebrate Jesus’ resurrection. It was a time for the faithful to tell jokes and have fun while recalling the “Risus Paschalis” – (the Easter laugh) found in God’s supreme joke played on the devil – Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed – Alleluia!

*He will once again fill your mouth with laughter and your lips with shouts of joy. [Job 8:21]*



## *Joyfully Serving*

Worship Leader:	Pastor Jane Harris
Ministers:	All Baptized People of God
Music:	Joe Chodur
Reader:	Diane Murphy

### **PRELUDE**



### **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*If you have special prayer requests you would like included in the Prayers of the Church, please write them on a purple slip from the table by the offering plate in the narthex. The prayers will be brought forward during the Offertory.*

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Joy is loose,

**In the wiggles of the children,**

The whispers of the youth,

**The smiles of the adults.**

We praise God for this glorious day,

**Let the praise break forth in the most unlikely places and in silly ways.**

Let joy and praise fill our hearts.

**Let the laughter be deep, for we are God's people.**



## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of joy,

**we know that you have blessed us richly, yet so often, we fail to see those blessings. You have given us Jesus Christ, and raised him from the dead, and promised us eternal life. But we act like we don't know it! Forgive us, God! Keep us mindful that you always have the last laugh, and that your promise is for true joy in every circumstance, and life forever.**

Christ is raised from the dead! Love wins!

**Alleluia, Christ is Risen!**

Christ lives and reigns for us!

**Alleluia Christ is risen indeed!**

In Jesus Christ, + we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!**



*The assembly stands.*

## GATHERING HYMN

## *Joy to the World!*

**ELW 267**



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

## **GREETING**

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

**And also with you.**

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE

### ***Hark The Herald Angel Said***

*(Tune: Hark the Herald Angels Sing)*



Hark the herald angel said,  
“Why seek Jesus with the dead?  
He's not here, as you can see,  
grave cloths lie where he would be.  
On your way now, tell the others,  
Jesus will be with his brothers.  
Sisters, too, he wants to see  
on the hills of Galilee.”  
Hark the herald angel said,  
“He is risen from the dead!”

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of joy, we come into your presence with joy and longing to be surprised.

**We thank you for giving us the gift of laughter and delight.**

**May we find that in our laughter there is healing and hope and abundance and blessing. Tickle our souls with the brush of your Spirit, to renew our worship and our living. Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **First Reading: Acts 1:6-14**

Jesus' companions at prayer after his departure



## **Psalm: Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35**

Sing to God, who rides upon the clouds. (Ps. 68:4)

## **Second Reading: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11**

God will sustain and restore those who suffer.

## **Gospel: John 16:20-23, 33**

Be of good cheer – Christ is Victorious!

A reading from Acts:

<sup>6</sup>When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup>He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” <sup>9</sup>When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup>While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup>They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.” <sup>12</sup>Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. <sup>13</sup>When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs

where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. <sup>14</sup>All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm: Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35 (*Congregation responds in the bold print*)**

<sup>1</sup>Let God arise, and let God's enemies be scattered;

**let those who hate God flee.**

<sup>2</sup>As smoke is driven away, so you should drive them away;

**as the wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.**

<sup>3</sup>But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God;

**let them also be merry and joyful.**

<sup>4</sup>Sing to God, sing praises to God's name; exalt the one who rides the clouds;

**I Am is that name, rejoice before God!**

<sup>5</sup>In your holy habitation, O God,

**you are a father to orphans, defender of widows;**

<sup>6</sup>you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners into freedom;

**but the rebels shall live in desert places.**

<sup>7</sup>O God, when you went forth before your people,

**when you marched through the wilderness,**

<sup>8</sup>the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God, the God of Sinai,

**at the presence of God, the God of Israel.**

<sup>9</sup>You sent a bountiful rain, O God;

**you restored your inheritance when it languished.**

<sup>10</sup>Your people found their home in it;

**in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.**

<sup>32</sup>Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth;

**sing praises to the Lord.**

<sup>33</sup>You ride in the heavens, O God, in the ancient heavens;

**you send forth your voice, your mighty voice.**

<sup>34</sup>Ascribe power to God,

**whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is in the skies.**

<sup>35</sup>How wonderful you are in your holy places, O God of Israel,

**giving strength and power to your people! Blessed be God!**

A reading from 1 Peter:

<sup>12</sup>Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were

happening to you. <sup>13</sup>But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his

glory is revealed. <sup>14</sup>If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is

resting on you. <sup>5:6</sup>Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. <sup>7</sup>Cast all your

anxiety on him, because he cares for you. <sup>8</sup>Discipline yourselves,



keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup>Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. <sup>10</sup>And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. <sup>11</sup>To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.  
The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>20</sup> [Jesus said] “The world will greatly rejoice over what is going to happen to me, and you will weep. But your weeping shall suddenly be turned to wonderful joy when you see me again. <sup>21</sup> It will be the same joy as that of a woman in labor when her child is born—her anguish gives place to rapturous joy and the pain is forgotten. <sup>22</sup> You have sorrow now, but I will see you again and then you will rejoice;

and no one can rob you of that joy. <sup>23</sup> At that time you won't need to ask me for anything, for you can go directly to the Father and ask him, and he will give you what you ask for because you use my name.

<sup>33</sup> I have told you all this so that you will have peace of heart and mind. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows; but cheer up, for I have overcome the world."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*



## YOUNG AT HEART LESSON

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY:

### *I Come With Joy*

**ELW #482**



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and  
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are  
3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion  
4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er  
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in  
fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in  
ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and  
near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -  
done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.  
Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.  
strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.  
live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.  
love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: DOVE OF PEACE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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## CREED

**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, co-equal and co-eternal with the  
Father and the Son.**

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

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (Please respond in the bold print)**

Amid the laughter and celebration of this day, it's good that we pause and remember that many carry burdens that need not be carried alone.

God of grace, God of love and laughter, **we thank you that we are so wondrously created and that we are made for relationship with you and with one another. We thank you for laughter with friends and loved ones. We thank you for the laughter of children, and the song it creates in our hearts.**

As your Spirit hovered over the waters of creation, so your Spirit hovers over all that you have made. **Bless the water that sustains the planet and grant wisdom to use it wisely.**

You empower your people with the fire of your Spirit. **Challenge all in leadership to speak a message of peace and justice.**

You care for all your children. **Show your steadfast love to all who suffer. Break the chains of all held fast by systemic oppression of any kind. Comfort all who are afraid or suffering from illness.**

We give thanks that humankind serves as your body in the world, stewarding your abundant gifts. **Guide our congregation's leaders as they seek your will.**

You raise your saints to new life in Christ. **We give you thanks for all your saints who have given us glimpses of your redeeming love.**

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**    *The assembly stands as the offering is brought forward.*

### **"Holy, Holy Humor"**

*(Sung to the tune of Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty ELW #413)*

*Words by Art Martell*



Holy, Holy, Holy - God is so funny.  
Early in creation, He made both you and me.  
Holy, Holy, Holy merciful and mighty.  
God in three persons? How can that be?

Holy, Holy, Holy all my sins are history.  
Casting down His love and grace, He makes me pure and free.  
Holy, Holy, Holy merciful and mighty.  
God is so wonderful, He made both you and me.

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Generous God, **We give thanks for the gifts of the earth and the gifts of your spirit – the spirit of love, the spirit of laughter, and the spirit of praise. May our cheerful offerings be a sign of our unending love for you and for all your people. We joyfully pray in the name of Jesus our Savior. Amen.**

### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

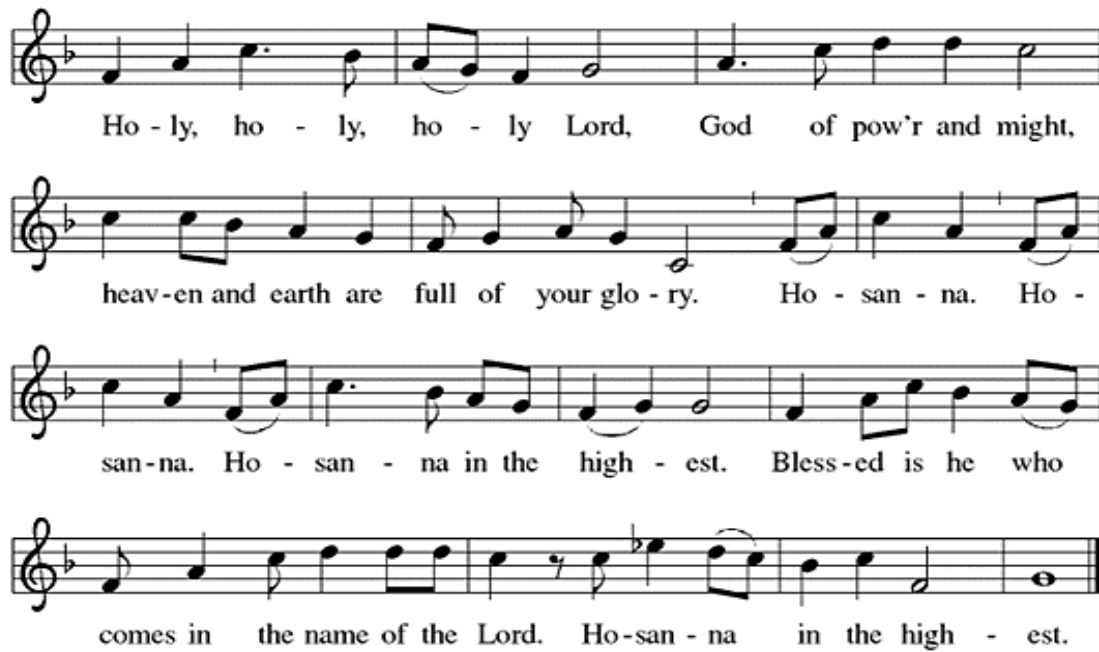
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### **PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, and earth and seas and all their creatures, and with

angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. 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.

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.

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

## LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come and know Christ, broken and poured out for you.

## COMMUNION SONG:

### *Morning Has Broken*

**ELW #556**



1 Morn - ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing;  
2 Sweet the rain's new fall, sun - lit from heav - en,  
3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing,



black-bird has spo - ken like the first bird.  
like the first dew - fall on the first grass.  
born of the one light E - den saw play!



Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the morn - ing!  
Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet gar - den,  
Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - 'ry morn - ing,



Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!  
sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.  
God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965

Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune

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## **COMMUNION PRAYER**

Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being.

**With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together.**

**Strengthen us to show your love and joyfully serve the world in Jesus' name.**

**Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

May the God of surprises bring smiles and joys to the everyday and ordinary.

May the God of love be seen in all we do and say.

Go forth rejoicing, for the good work has just begun!



**Amen.**

## **SENDING SONG: Go Tell it on the Mountain-Easter Version**

*(Sung to the tune of "Go Tell it on the Mountain" ELW*

*#290)*

### **Refrain:**

Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and everywhere,  
Go tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus is alive.

- 1) While soldiers watched the gravesite  
that quiet Sunday dawn



there came a big commotion  
and then the storm was gone. (*Refrain*)

2) The women found no body  
their spices to anoint;  
instead they found an angel,  
God's message to appoint. (*Refrain*)

3) Now go from where He isn't  
to where He said He'd be.  
An Easter-time reunion:  
the hills of Galilee. (*Refrain*)

## DISMISSAL

Go in joy – go in giggles – go in peace to love and serve God!

**Thanks be to God! AMEN!**



12-8

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**"Hear that? People in heaven have  
ever-laughing life."**

## Calendar

### **This Week:**

Sunday, May 21	9:30 am Holy Holy Humor Sunday/Communion @ SP 10:30 am Fellowship 2 pm 2/4 Stitchers
Monday, May 22	9:00 am Quilters OS 9:30 am Quilters SP
Wednesday, May 24	9:30 am M & M's SP 7 pm Bible Study OS Fireside Room Loveletter Deadline
Friday, May 26	Office Closed SP
Saturday, May 27	Band Festival Food Stand SP

### **Upcoming:**

Sunday, May 28	9:30 am Worship/Communion @ OS
Monday, May 29	10:30 am Fellowship Memorial Day No SP or OS Quilters today
Wednesday May 31	9:30 am M&M's SP

## Announcements

The **Band Festival Food Stand** at St. Paul will be Saturday, May 27<sup>th</sup>. There are sign-up sheets in the Fellowship Hall. Please contact Diane Murphy (641-512-5851) with any questions.

St. Paul still needs volunteers for **Meals on Wheels** the week of June 5th. A driver and someone to deliver to the door. You need to be available from 11 am to 12:30 p.m. approximately. If you can help, please call Diane Murphy at 641-512-5851.

**LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF PERSONAL CARE KITS**-Thank you to everyone who in some way helped the ingathering for LWR personal care kits this spring. Your donations of items and money, your help in assembling and packing the kits, and your prayers to bless the kits help to make a difference to others in need. To show them that not only do we care about them, but God is there with them. Thank you.

**HELP WANTED Our Saviour's:** We are looking for a part-time office secretary to work 10-15 hours per week. Please talk to Mike or Pastor Jane if you know someone who may be interested.

**THE NEW AED UNIT for Our Saviour's** has arrived, and the cost is \$1,399.00. If you would like to help with this expense, please write "*AED unit*" on the memo line of your check.

**THE ROCK, THE ROAD, AND THE RABBI** is a six-week study of sites in Israel that make the New Testament come alive. Each week Pastor Jane will be our study leader, and we will view a video followed by questions and discussion. The topics are biblical places from the New Testament beginning with "*Bethlehem: Where it All Began*". In the video, Kathie Lee Gifford and Rabbi Jason Sobel share insights and background details that impacted their faith life. The study is for 6 consecutive weeks, beginning Wednesday, May 17th at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside room at Our Saviour's for all of this Bible Study. Each study is self-contained, if you miss one, just come when you can. **ALL** are welcome to attend.

There will be NO QUILTING at St. Paul or Our Saviour's Monday, May 29.

**Contact information for Pastor Jane:** phone number is 641-242-0337 and her email address is [janeharris2010@gmail.com](mailto:janeharris2010@gmail.com) if anyone in our church family wanted to contact her.

Please be sure to sign friendship registers located at the end of the pews.

There are sign-up sheets in the Fellowship Hall for serving coffee hour and the Community Kitchen. Please help where you can.