

Paradise Lutheran Church - Thomasville, PA
Second Sunday of Easter/Holy Humor April 7, 2024 9 a.m.

Welcome

Prelude

Please stand.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity † one God, the wellspring of grace,
our Easter and our joy.

All: Amen.

Pastor: Look, here is water!

All: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Pastor: Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool, the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life. Look, here is water!

All: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Pastor: At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection, you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

All: Amen.

Gathering Song "Now the Green Blade Rises"



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Greeting

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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

All: And also with you.

Hymn of Praise “Now the Feast and Celebration”

Refrain

Now the feast and cel - e - bra-tion, all of cre - a - tion
sings for joy, to the God of life and love and free-dom;
praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

Verse 1

1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain,
whose blood has freed and u - nit - ed us
to be one great peo - ple of God. **D.C.**

Verse 2

2. Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and might, all hon - or and
glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er. **D.C.**

Continued



Verse 3

3. For God has come to dwell with us, to make us
peo-ple of God; to make all things new. D.C.

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Lord of Life, we praise you for the gifts of laughter and delight. Awaken us to rejoice in your presence and artistry in the creation all around us. Give us the courage to laugh in the face of sin, death, and the devil, confident in Christ's victory over the grave. Empower us to share our joy with our neighbors, in the name of Christ our Lord.

All: Amen. *Please be seated.*

Please stand.

Pastor: The holy Gospel according to John, the twentieth chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: *John 20:19-31*

¹⁹When 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." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So 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.”

²⁶A 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.” ²⁷Then 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.” ²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But 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.

After the reading:

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord. **All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

Skit “The Not So Faithful Heroes” by Rob Courtney
Purchased from skitguys.com; used with permission.

[List of participants is in the announcement section.]

Please stand.

Hymn of the Day “O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing” vs. 1, 5, 6, 7, 8



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 O sons and daugh - ters, let us sing
2 That Eas - ter morn, at break of day,
3 An an - gel clad in white they see,
4 That night the a - pos - tles met in fear;
Insert stanzas 5-8 if desired.
9 On this most ho - ly day of days,



with heav'n - ly hosts to Christ our king:
the faith - ful wom - en went their way
who sits and speaks un - to the three,
a - mong them came their mas - ter dear,
be laud and ju - bi - lee and praise:



to - day the grave has lost its sting! Al - le - lu - ia!
to seek the tomb where Je - sus lay. Al - le - lu - ia!
“Your Lord will go to Gal - i - lee.” Al - le - lu - ia!
and said, “My peace be with you here.” Al - le - lu - ia!
to God your hearts and voic - es raise. Al - le - lu - ia!

After the final stanza



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 5 When Thomas first the tidings heard,
that they had seen the risen Lord,
he doubted the disciples' word.
Alleluia! | 7 No longer Thomas then denied;
he saw the feet, the hands, the side;
“You are my Lord and God!” he cried.
Alleluia! |
| 6 “My pierced side, O Thomas, see,
and look upon my hands, my feet;
not faithless, but believing be.”
Alleluia! | 8 How blest are they who have not seen,
and yet whose faith has constant been,
for they eternal life shall win.
Alleluia! |

Please be seated.

Creed of Faith and Laughter

All: We believe in God, who made us in his image, who lifts our hearts during times of trouble, who inspires us with wonder and awe.

We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who strikes the light of joy in the midst of gloom and despair, and who had the last laugh on the devil when he rose from the dead. We live in newness of life and laugh because of him.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who with the Father and the Son is our counselor, guide, and refuge. Even in times of trial, the Spirit opens our eyes to see God's presence in all things, and fills our lives with goodness, laughter, and great joy. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Assisting Minister: Lord, in your mercy, All: hear our prayer.

Please stand.

Sharing of the Peace

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you. (*Please feel free to move around and share the peace of Christ with each other with a sign, handshake, or hug.*)

Offertory Response “As the Grains of Wheat”

Refrain

Congregation:



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread;



so may all your peo-ple from all the ends of earth be



gath-ered in - to one in you.

Verses



1. As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst

2. Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when



to Refrain

may we share the pres-ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Offertory Prayer

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. **All: Amen.**

Dialog

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Eucharistic Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Pastor: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**All: 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.**

Invitation to Communion

Pastor: This is Christ's table, and he is the host of this meal. So come, you who have much faith, and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often, and you who have not been for a while; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed. Come, Christ promises to meet us here.

Please be seated.

Jesus invites you to his feast! Come forward, as you are able, to receive his body and blood in the bread and wine. (If you need to receive communion in your pew, you can alert us by holding up your hand after the line has gone through, and we will be glad to come to you.). Please be seated.

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
you break the chains of ha - tred and
you are the way of jus - tice and
you are the way of mer - cy and



Congregation:
world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
fear:
peace:
love.

Final Stanza

Congregation or Assistant:



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,



grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Hymn: “Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup”



Eat this bread, drink this cup. Taste and see the good-ness of God.



Bread of life, cup of love, we re-joice in your pres-ence.



- 1 I will bless the Lord at all times, praise with heart and voice;
- 2 Look up - on the Lord, be ra - dant, nev - er turn a - way.
- 3 An - gels fold their wings a - round us, guard through good and ill.
- 4 Saints of God, bow down and wor - ship, bless the ho - ly name.



in my God I glo - ry for - ev - er: lis - ten and re - joice!
God will save in ev - 'ry af - flic - tion, hear us when we pray.
Those who seek the Lord will lack noth - ing; taste, and have your fill.
Rise to tell God's great - ness for - ev - er, won - drous deeds pro - claim!

After all have communed, please stand.

Blessing after communion

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **All: Amen.**

Post-Communion Canticle "Praise to You, O God of Mercy"

Congregation:

1. Praise to you, O God of mer - cy:
2. From of old you loved and sought us:

Thanks be to you for ev - er! Rais - ing high the
Thanks be to you for ev - er! Truth and jus - tice

weak and low - ly: Thanks be to you for ev - er!
you have taught us: Thanks be to you for ev - er!

Strong is your faith - ful - ness, strong is your
love, re - mem - b'ring your cov - e - nant of
life with us. 3. Praise to you, O
God of mer - cy: Thanks be to you for ev - er!

Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly: Thanks be to you for
ev - er! Thanks be to you for ev - er!

Post-Communion Prayer

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to welcome others as you welcome us and to share the abundant mercy of Jesus. **All: Amen.**

Announcements

Sending

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor: The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope † bless you now and always. **All: Amen.**

Sending Hymn: "Thine is the Glory"

1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; end - less is the
 2 Lo, Je - sus meets thee, ris - en from the tomb! Lov - ing - ly he
 3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with-

vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment
 greets thee, scat - ters fear and gloom; let his church with glad - ness
 out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than con-qu'rors,

rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes
 hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;
 through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan

Refrain
 where thy bod - y lay.
 death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring
 to thy home a - bove.

Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won!

Dismissal

Pastor: Alleluia! Go in peace. Love like Jesus.

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

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WELCOME to Paradise! Thank the Lord for the gift of laughter, especially in church! Happy Holy Humor Sunday!

IN OUR PRAYERS: Louise Stambaugh, Dolores Tavarez, Larry Luckenbaugh, Allison Trump, Ken Stambaugh, Joyce Bentzel, Sherry Feeser; Kaleb Trump, Nancy and Jerry Frey-Markell, Ron Schwartz, Bob Markle, Samantha Zorbaugh, Gwen Schnetzka, Angie Zepp, Erika Smith, Kim Culbert, Connie Keller, Heather Shoemaker, Judy Jarvis, Bernie Tucker, Sue Sell, Joe Pohlman, Linda Schreier, Connie McNeil, Christine Ruth Smith, Jen Miller, William Brady, Ryan Yingling, Michael Schulman

*For those in prison, especially Patrick and Keith
For those who mourn*

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God by an anonymous donor for Holy Humor Sunday.

THE BULLETINS are given to the Glory of God by Julie Maher in honor of her fellow skit performers today.

SKIT PERFORMERS: Big thank you to the fabulous skit performers today! Narrator: Steph Kinard; actors Sinclaire Trump, Allison Trump, Paul Hipkiss, Joe and Donna LeVault, Wayne Trump, Sr., Miriam Hipkiss, Kay Brady, Justice White, Clay Black, Julie Maher.

FRIENDS OF PARADISE meet at Hoss's in West York at 11:15 a.m. on Tuesday, April 9.

HARVEST OF HOPE VOLUNTEERS for Tuesday, April 9, are Joan Huffman, Heidi Wolf, Kay Murren, Steph Kinard, Cindy Roach, Fran Nace, Valerie Diehl, Larry Rinehart.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE meets on Tuesday, April 9, at 6:30 p.m.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE meets at 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 11, and **COUNCIL** meets at 7 that night.

SUB/SANDWICH SALE deadline is April 14! Order forms and payment envelopes are at each entrance. Pickup is noon to 1:30 p.m. AND 5 to 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 24, or Thursday, April 25, 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

PROPERTY WORKDAY will be held on Saturday, April 20, from 9 a.m. to around noon. Sign up on the form in the narthex.

EARTH CARE IN APRIL: Our earth care focus for this month is the Horn Farm Center in York, which fosters ecological learning by connecting people with nature in fun and meaningful ways. Support and engage with the Horn Farm Center in two ways:

1. Come to the Horn Farm on Sunday, April 21, after the 10:15 service for a tour and some volunteer work, ending at 3 p.m. We will most likely be helping tend tree plantings. If you can come, please sign up (in the narthex or by contacting Marty Rexroth or Dave Cassel) *by* April 14 so we can give the farm a count.

2. Donate supplies and gift cards through the end of April. Pick up a flyer in the narthex for a full list of supplies that we're collecting.

ORDER YOUR GERANIUMS for Mother's Day! Deadline is April 28; order forms are in the narthex. Proceeds benefit SpiriTrust Lutheran. Flowers will be displayed on Sunday, May 12.

GIANT and WEIS CARDS are available for purchase. See Pat Zech or Heidi Wolf. The church gets a portion of the total purchased.

WEBSITE: The **April** website is sponsored by Andrew and Julie Maher in honor of their grandson Maverick's 7th birthday (4/25). Let Julie know if you'd like to sponsor a month in **2025**. Available: February, March, November, December. Cost: \$20.

SPECIAL OFFERING ENVELOPE for **April** will go to *Laundry Love*.

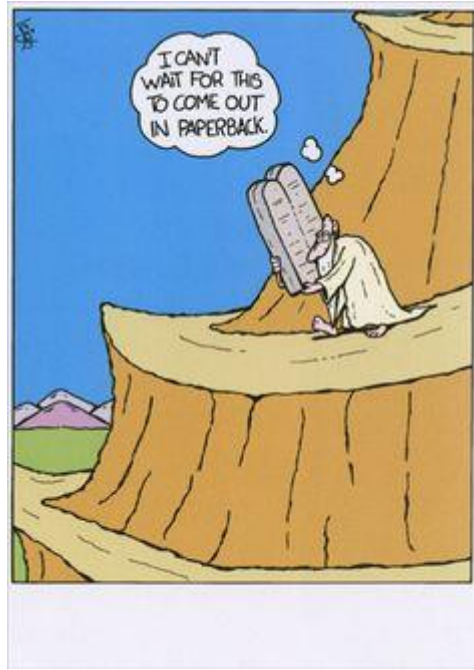
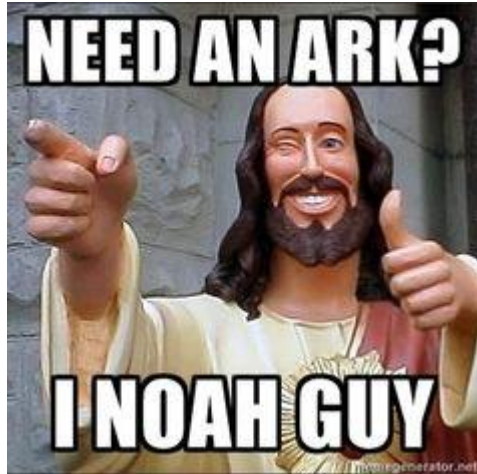
Giving of time and tithes:

Attendance: Maundy Thursday: 39; Good Friday: 42

Easter Sunday, March 31: early, 36; late, 115; Sunday School, 13

Offerings	Our budget needs for God's Mission	Your actual gifts from 3/31/24	Difference
Current	\$4,456.00	\$8,017.02	+\$3,561.02
Benevolence	\$283.00	\$526.00	+\$243.00
Capital Improvements	\$289.00	\$298.50	+\$9.50
	<i>Actual expenses to date</i>	<i>Total actual gifts to date</i>	<i>Difference</i>
	\$55,540.01	\$67,545.57	\$12,005.56





Worship Participants:

Pastor: The Reverend Sigrid Hipkiss

Minister of Music: Allison Trump

Greeters: Michele and Adam Becker

Acolyte: Daniel Hipkiss

Assisting Minister: Michele Becker

Usher/communion: Kim Beard

Tech: Mike Gautsch

Altar Guild for April: Chris Garrett, Kris Gabel



Church information:

Gathered to worship, care, and grow; sent to love like Jesus.

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