

SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 16, 2023 -10:00AM

About Bright Sunday

For many centuries it was the custom for Christians in Europe to observe the days of Easter Week with picnics and parties and days filled with joy and laughter. All of that led to the Second Sunday of Easter which was known as "Bright Sunday" when laughter became a part of the liturgy. Priests deliberately included jokes and puns in their sermons. Choirs sang silly songs. It was their way of celebrating the resurrection of Christ – the supreme joke God played on Satan by raising Jesus from the dead. Early church theologians (like Augustine, Gregory of Nyssa, and John Chrysostom) supported this thinking; they called God's overturning of Satan the "Easter laugh" (*Risus paschalis*). Sadly, the observance of *Risus Paschalis* was officially outlawed by Pope Clement X in the 17th century. In recent years Bright Sunday has begun to make a return as Christians in Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Episcopal, Lutheran and other Churches have taken up the tradition. As the psalm says; "When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion then were we like those who dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter and our tongues with shouts of joy." (Ps. 126)

Assistive Listening Devices and Large Print Bulletins are available, please see an usher

Announcements

Prelude

Please stand at the ringing of the bell

Entrance Hymn
1982 #376

"Joyful, joyful we adore thee"

Hymnal

Alleluia. Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Song of Praise

refrain

This is the feast of vic-tor-y for our God. Al-le lu - ia, al-le lu-ia, al-le - lu - ia. Wor - thy is Christ the Lamb who was slain, whose Sing - with all the peo - ple of God, and blood sets us free to be peo - ple of God. This is the feast of join in the hymn of all cre - a - - tion. vic-tor-y for our God. Al-le lu - ia, al-le lu-ia, al-le - lu - - ia!

final refrain

Text: Rev. 5: 12-13; adapt. John W. Arthur (1922-1980) Music: *Festival Canticle*; Richard Hillert (b. 1923)
See endnote for reprint and streaming notice

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

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The Lessons

A reading from Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, "You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him, 'I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will live in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.' "Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, 'He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.' This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 151 (sung by the Choir)

Be joyful in the Lord all ye lands,
 serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with a song.
 For the Lord loveth mirth and a hearty joke,
 but a sour and cheerless disposition the Lord despiseth.
 Lo, the prophet saith: "Knock, knock,"
 and the reply cameth: "Who is there?:
 "Sherwood." "Sherwood who?"
 "Sherwood like to hear some laughter."
 On this day the Lord has acted.
 We will rejoice and be glad in it.
 And again the prophet saith: "Knock, knock."
 And again the reply cameth: "Who is there?"
 And again the prophet said: "Howard."
 And in response was answered: "Howard who? "
 "Howard you like to smile and give a chuckle,
 for such is certainly called for on this joyous day."

A reading from 1 Peter 1:3-9

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 honor 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Standing

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - - - jah! Hal-le, hal-le hal - le - lu -
 jah! Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le, lu jah! Hal-le - lu-jah! Hal - le - lu - jah!

Text and Music © 1990 Wild Goose Resource Group, Iona Community, (admin. GIA)
 See endnote for reprint and streaming notice

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according John.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

John 20:19-31

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.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

Standing

The 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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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 People

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. And so we pray: **Hear our prayer.**

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. **Hear our prayer.**

By your great unending love, you inspire in us a spirit of imagination and creativity. Help us to use that spirit to play more, to laugh more, and to create beauty in every way possible. Remind us to laugh out loud, for doing so will heal some of the wounds within us. Not all, but some. **Hear our prayer.**

God, we pray for those who cannot find their laughter today. For those who are grieving, or suffering illness of body, mind or spirit, for those who are lonely and in need of someone to share their time and friendship... for those who have not yet moved into the season and spirit of Easter and find themselves stuck in the gloom of Good Friday. **Hear our prayer.**

May these and the troubles of all your people be soothed, blessed, and comforted by your holy presence. May we each find the laughter within us that sets our spirits free, and in that freedom, may we take your love into every part of our lives. **Hear our prayer.**

Grant, we pray, Almighty God, that we who celebrate with awe the Paschal feast may be found worthy to attain to everlasting joys; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Presider

O Lord, giver of joy and laughter, we thank you for giving us moments of laughter and unbridled joy. Thank you for the gift that allows us to enjoy these things to the full. We can laugh because you have conquered death, that the tomb is empty, that light of the Risen Christ shines brightly and that no darkness will ever overcome it. This we pray through Jesus the first born of all creation and the author of our salvation.

Amen.

Standing

The peace of Christ be always with you.
And also with you.

The Offertory

Offering of Jokes

Offertory Hymn

“Give to us laughter”

**1. Give to us laughter, O Source of our life.
Laughter can banish so much of our strife!
Laughter and love give us wholeness and health.
Laughter and love are the coin of true wealth.**

**2. Give to us laughter as sign of deep joy;
let us in laughing find Christian employ,
joining with stars and with bright northern lights,
laughing and praising and sharing delights.**

**3. Even in sorrow and hours of grief,
laughter with tears brings us healing relief!**

**God, give us laughter, and God, give us peace,
joy of your promise among us increase.**

Text copyright © 1974 Walter Farquharson. Tune SLANE.

The Presentation



All who hun-ger, sing to geth - er, Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread. Come from wild-er -
ness and wan-d'ring, here in truth we will be fed. Blest are those who from this tab - le
live their lives in grati-i - tude. Taste and see the grace e - ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan (1955-1993) © GIA Publications Tune: *Holy Manna*, from *The Southern Harmony*
See endnote for reprint and streaming notice

The Holy Communion

Standing

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

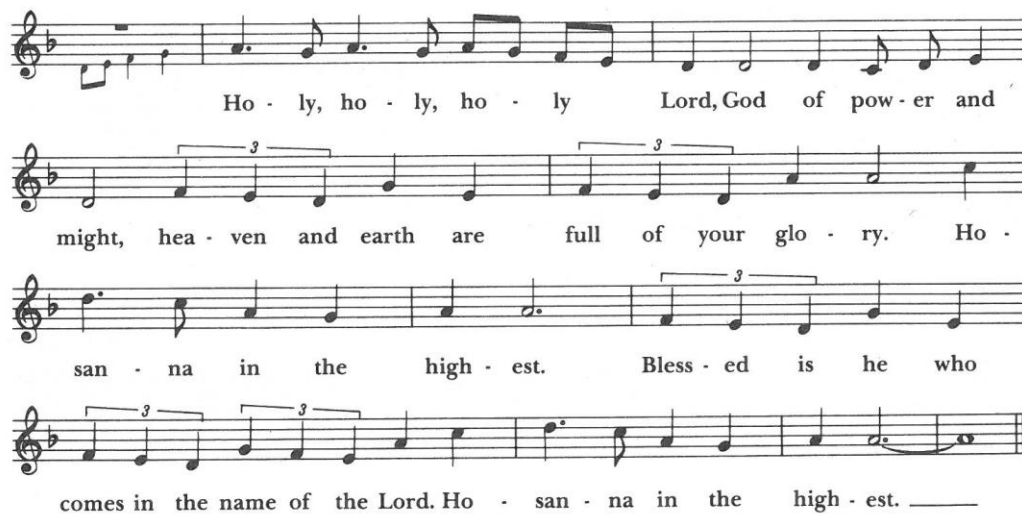
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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. —

Setting: Robert Powell (b. 1932)

See endnote for reprint and streaming notice

The people remain standing or kneel

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,


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, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore, let us keep the feast, Alleluia.


Fraction anthem

Cantor; then All




The dis - ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus in the break - ing of the bread.

Cantor



1. The bread which we break, al - le - lu - ia,



is the com - mun - ion of the bo - dy of Christ. [Ant.]

See endnote for reprint and streaming notice.

Invitation to Communion

Presider

Jesus said: I am the living bread that came down from heaven. He now gives this living bread to you, so that you may dwell in him and he in you. Come, the feast is prepared. Christ, the host, waits to meet you here.

The Communion of the People

Communion Hymn

"Deck thyself"

Hymnal 1982 #339

Post communion prayer

Let us pray.

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Blessing

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

May the God of joy be seen by others in your face and in your actions

May the God of peace fill you with all joy and peace and believing through the power of the Holy Spirit and the blessing of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be with you this day and for ever. **Amen.**'

Dismissal Hymn

“CHRISTIANS WE ARE MADE FOR LAUGHTER”



1.Christ-ians we were made for laugh-ter, born to gig - gle and guf - faw!
 2.Joy Christ showed us, joy Christ show-ers ev - ry - where on ev - ry - one
 3.Christ was dead but now is ri - sen! Is - n't that a cause for glee?
 4.Now un - fet - tered free as breez-es, gig - gles, snorts and glee a - bound!



Ev - en in the great here - aft - er mirth is in - ter -
 Turn you face up like the flow - ers, catch the joy and
 Love has shat - tered all the pri - sons we have built so
 Ev - en when our laugh - ter whee - zes, we praise God with



persed with awe. Al - - le - - lu - - - ia.
 have some fun! Al - - le - - lu - - - ia.
 care - ful - ly. Al - - le - - lu - - - ia.
 ev - ry sound. Al - - le - - lu - - - ia.

Text: Jo Cassidy-Maloney
 Tune: *Mowsley*, Cyril Vincent Taylor, (b. 1907
 See endnote for reprint and streaming notice.

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Risen Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

For healing: Adrienne, Al, Alice, Ame, Bernice, Butch, Carol, Dave, Dennis, Derald, Donna, Eloise, Esther, Fred, Freda, Henry, Jamie, Jenny, Jerry, Joey, John, Kate, Kay, Kathy, Kim, Kirsten, Lane, Larry, Leigh, Margaret, Marilyn, Massey, Meg, Mike, Milton, Myrna, Nelda, Nicolas, Ora, Rita, Rosellen, Sandy, Sarah, Sherry, Steve, Terry, Tony, Vera, Wayne and those who care for them.

For those serving in the military: Fury, Gerromy, Chris, Noel, Drew, Dalton, Kyle, Brad, Ben, Taylor, Jacob, Andrew, Neil, Wayne, & those serving with them.

For those in prison: for the prisoners, staff and families of prisoners and staff at Graceville Correctional Facility, Graceville, Florida.

SAINT PAUL'S THIS WEEK *TODAY*

SUNDAY

- 7:30 am-Holy Eucharist
- 9 am Christian Formation
- 10 am-Holy Eucharist
- 7 pm-NAR-NON & NA Open Meetings

MONDAY

- 5:45 pm Vestry Meeting
- 8 pm-AA & ALANON

WEDNESDAY

- 10:30 am-Rector's Bible Study
- Noon Eucharist with Healing
- 7 pm-NA-Open Meeting

THURSDAY

- 4 pm-Women's Bible Study
- 6 pm-AA Meeting
- 8 pm-AA Open meeting

SATURDAY

- 10 am-AA Meeting

ECW BAKE SALE AT ART IN THE PARK MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND

Every year on the Saturday before Mother's Day weekend, St. Paul's ECW participates in the Art in the Park Festival with a huge Bake Sale. This is the major fund-raiser for the ECW that supports our many Church, Community and outreach Ministries and it only happens with your generous donations of homemade baked goods. You will find inserts in your bulletin this morning. Please let the ECW know your willingness to participate by filling in the information requested. You may return the form in the alms basin, to the church office or to Katie Goodson, ECW President.

BLESSING BOX AT SAINT PAUL'S

Saint Paul's own Blessing Box needs to be filled! This box can have nonperishable items such as cereal, snack food, baby food, Pop-Tarts and canned vegetables & fruit. A bin is in the Parish hall and the office for items.

REMEMBER ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES WHEN YOU SHOP

Tuna Helper, Tuna Pancake Mix, Syrup and Mashed Potatoes.

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The Second Sunday of Easter
April 16, 2023

Hymns

Joyful, joyful

Text: Henry Van Dyke (1852-1933) © Scribner's Sons
Tune: *Hymn to Joy*, L. Beethoven (1770-1827)
Public Domain

Give to us laughter

Text: © 1974 Walter Farquharson
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Tune: *Slane*, trad. Irish
Public Domain'

Deck thyself

Words: *Johann Frank (1618-1677; tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt*
Music: *Schmucke dich, melody Johann Cruger (1598-1662; harm. The English Hymnal, 1906*

Christians we are made for laughter

Text: © Jo Cassidy-Maloney
Tune: Mowsley, Cyril V. Taylor (b. 1907)
© 1985 Hope Publishing Company

Service Music

This is the feast

Text: Revelation 5: 12-13, adapt. John W. Arthur (1922-1980)
Tune: *Festival Canticle*, Richard Hiller, (b. 1923)
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Halle, halle, halle

Text and Music: © Wild Good Resource Group
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All who hunger

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan © GIA Publications
Tune: *Holy Manna*, from *the Southern Harmony*
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Tune: Public Domain

Sanctus

Tune: Robert Powell
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The disciples knew the Lord Jesus

Setting: Mode 6, adapt. Mason Martins
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