

ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH
JUNE 16, 2024, 9 AM
4th Sunday After Pentecost—Holy Laughter Sunday!
We proclaim and practice Christ's Love!

Bulletin, noun;

1. something to read during the sermon;
2. a fan used in churches without air conditioning;
3. your receipt for attending church.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN *Joy To the World*

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth!

Sing of God's glorious name, glorify him with your praise!

Everything on earth will worship you;
they will sing your praises, shouting your name in glorious songs.

Come and see what our God has done,
what awesome miracles he has done for us!

Let the whole world bless our God and sing his praise.

Our lives are in his hands, and he keeps our feet from stumbling.

We gather this day to worship the God of laughter

Whose sense of humor turns a tiny mustard seed into a tree,

Who hides the extraordinary promise of new life, in an ordinary loaf of bread,

With joy, God turns our sad and serious world topsy-turvy.

A dry bulb, buried in the ground, bursts into flower.

A cocoon breaks open and a beautiful butterfly appears.

A child dances into a mud puddle and all those watching burst into laughter.

As we gather to worship may our praise break forth in the most unlikely of places and in the silliest ways.

May joy fill our hearts with song and with laughter as we worship our laughing God

Thanks be to God!

HYMN *“This is the Day”*

This is the day, this is the day. That the Lord has made. That the Lord has made

We will rejoice, we will rejoice. And be glad in it, and be glad in it

This is the day that the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it

This is the day, this is the day. That the Lord has made. *Repeat song*

CHILDREN’S SERMON

FATHER’S DAY BLESSING

God of all creation, pour out your blessing on all fathers and those who provide fatherly care.

You have made them in your image and given them children to love and care for in your name.

Bless them with a heart like your heart: discerning and thoughtful, bold and decisive, compassionate and loving. As they model for their children the life that is lived by faith and not by sight, grant them courage under pressure and confidence in your power. When troubles threaten to overwhelm them, grant them your coping calm. When doubts give rise to anxiety,

shore up their trust in your promises. When joy fills their days, grant them a keen gratitude for your abundant supply of grace. Season them with a lively sense of humor, Lord, for it will make life richer for us all. In all circumstances preserve them as your own. We ask this in Jesus’ name.

Amen.

LITANY

For everything there is a season,
And a time for every purpose under heaven.

A time to be born and a time to die.

A time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted.

A time to break down and a time to build up.

A time to weep and a time to laugh.

For everything there is a season,

And a time for every purpose under heaven.

A TIME FOR LAUGHTER: *For everything there is a season and today is a day for laughter. You will have a few opportunities during our worship service to come up and share humor. If you would like to do so now, please come to the microphone.*

SONG *If You're Happy and You Know It*

Vs. 1: If you're happy and you know it clap your hands

If you're happy and you know it clap your hands

If you're happy and you know it, then your face will surely show it.

If you're happy and you know it clap your hands

Vs. 2: If you're happy and you know it stomp your feet...

Vs. 3: If you're happy and you know it shout "Amen"...

Vs. 4: If you're happy and you know it, do all three...

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

Let us pray: **Good and gracious God, we laugh as a sign of the joy you have brought into the world through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Help us to see light through your eyes—eyes of grace and forgiveness—and help us to laugh when the world presses in around us and we are afraid. Amen.**

FIRST READING Ecclesiastes 5:18-20

¹⁸This is what I have seen to be good: it is fitting to eat and drink and find enjoyment in all the toil with which one toils under the sun the few days of the life God gives us; for this is our lot. ¹⁹Likewise all to whom God gives wealth and possessions and whom he enables to enjoy them, and to accept their lot and find enjoyment in their toil — this is the gift of God. ²⁰For they will scarcely brood over the days of their lives, because God keeps them occupied with the joy of their hearts.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM Psalm 126:1-3

¹When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

²**Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy** then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."

³**The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.**

SECOND READING Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL Luke 15:8-10

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 15th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

⁸Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' ¹⁰Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

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

A TIME FOR LAUGHTER: *For everything there is a season and today is a day for laughter. You will have a few opportunities during our worship service to come up and share humor. If you would like to do so now, please come to the microphone.*

SONG *I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy Down in My Heart*

Vs. 1: I've got the joy joy joy joy
Down in my heart (where?) Down in my heart (where?) Down in my heart
I've got the joy joy joy joy
Down in my heart (where?) Down in my heart to stay

Vs. 2: I've got the love of Jesus love of Jesus...

Vs. 3: I've got the peace that passes understanding...

SERMON

SONG *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*

1 Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

Chorus: Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves
abound!

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves
abound!

2 Christ is able to make us one, at the table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless, love in word and in deed express. *Chorus*

3 Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) ev'rywhere! *Chorus*

RESPONSIVE CREED AND CONFESSION

Let us join in our responsive Prayer of Confession:

We believe in God, who has created and is creating,

We live, we love, we laugh, because we are made in the image of the Divine.

We believe in God, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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

We believe in God, who works in us and others by the Spirit.

**Within that Spirit is the joy, the laughter, the wonder and the promise of all
that life could be.**

Forgive us, Divine Laughter, when we take ourselves too seriously, when we don't
claim the happiness that is rightfully ours as part of your wondrous creation.

**Forgive us, Divine Laughter, when we forget that you will always have the last
laugh.**

Restore in us the overwhelming joy of knowing we are loved. **Amen.**

A TIME FOR LAUGHTER: *For everything there is a season and today is a day
for laughter. You will have a few opportunities during our worship service to come
up and share humor. If you would like to do so now, please come to the
microphone.*

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of glory, with great joy we worship you and lay before you these gifts, which you have first given us. Let our lives serve you only, and lead us always to our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, the bright and morning star. Amen.

PRAYERS Lord of laughter, **hear our prayer.**

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, for ever and ever. Amen

CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING *A Clown's Prayer ~Author Unknown*

As I stumble through this life, help me to create more laughter than tears, dispense more happiness than gloom, spread more cheer than despair. Never let me become so indifferent, that I will fail to see the wonders in the eyes of a child, or the twinkle in the eyes of the aged. Never let me forget that my total effort is to cheer people, make them happy, and forget momentarily, all the unpleasantness in their lives. And in my final moment, may I hear You whisper: "When you made My people smile, you made Me smile." **Amen.** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his smiling face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and grant you humor, laughter, and peace. **Amen.**

CLOSING SONG *Happy Day*

The greatest day in history
Death is beaten You have rescued me
Sing it out Jesus is alive
The empty cross the empty grave
Life eternal You have won the day
Shout it out Jesus is alive
He's alive

Chorus

And oh happy day happy day
You washed my sin away

Oh happy day happy day
I'll never be the same
Forever I am changed

When I stand in that place
Free at last meeting face to face
I am Yours Jesus You are mine
Endless joy perfect peace
Earthly pain finally will cease
Celebrate Jesus is alive
He's alive *Chorus*

Oh what a glorious day
What a glorious way
That You have saved me
And oh what a glorious day
What a glorious name *Chorus*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, serve the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

Announcements

****Altar Flowers this week donated by Dave and Karrie Frenz in honor of their Anniversary****

St. James Softball: Friday, June 21st, 8 PM (Diamond 1)

VBS Registration Forms Available Now in the June Journal and at Church St.

James will be hosting a joint VBS with St. Paul and Our Saviours from July 22-25th. Registration forms are in the June Journal, on our website (please see link above), or at the Usher's table. VOLUNTEERS are also needed! Please fill out the volunteer section on the VBS registration forms or call the office!

Next Week's Calendar

Monday, June 17th: Love/Hope Circle 10 am

Tuesday, June 18th: Do-Days 9 am
Wednesday, June 19th: Men's Breakfast 7 am

Thursday, June 20th: Council 5:30 pm
Friday June 21st, : St James Softball 8 pm Diamond 1
Sunday, June 23rd, 9 am Outdoor Worship