

**SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Phone: 570-374-9544

Website: www.salemlutheranchurchselinsgrove.com

**REV. KRISTINA SCHAEFFER, Pastor**

845-636-9487

stinaschaeffer@gmail.com

Organist: Kim Bolig

Salem Secretary: Linda Maurer 570-374-0339

lmaurer56@outlook.com

**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**“HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY”**

**April 24, 2022**

+++++

*This week we are resurrecting an old Easter custom begun by the Greeks in the early centuries of Christianity: "Holy Humor Sunday" --- a celebration of Jesus' resurrection -- on the Sunday after Easter. For centuries in Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Protestant countries, the week following Easter Sunday was observed by the faithful as "days of joy and laughter" with parties and picnics to celebrate Jesus' resurrection. Churchgoers and pastors played practical jokes on each other, drenched each other with water, told jokes, sang, and danced. The custom was rooted in the musings of early church theologians that God played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead.*

*Holy Humor Sunday services not only give Christians an opportunity for ongoing celebrations of the greatest miracle in human history - Jesus' resurrection - it also gives each of us an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for our own smaller resurrections in this world and this life.*

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Oh Lord our God. Every good thing we have is a gift from you. **You give us the gift of laughter.**

You Lord are all we need. **You are my rock and you keep me safe.**

We praise you, O Lord, for being our guide. **You bring our lives goodness and the future is bright.**

Even in the darkest night your teachings fill our minds. **We will always look to you.**

You are always beside us so we will always be joyful to you. **Alleluia!**

## **GATHERING SONG – *Down In My Heart***

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

I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus  
Down in my heart (where?)  
Down in my heart (where?)  
Down in my heart  
I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus  
Down in my heart (where?)  
Down in my heart to stay

I've got the peace that passes understanding  
Down in my heart (where?)  
Down in my heart (where?)  
Down in my heart  
I've got the peace that passes understanding  
Down in my heart (where?)  
Down in my heart to stay

I've got the wonderful love of my blessed Redeemer  
Way down in the depths of my heart (where?)  
Down in the depths of my heart (where?)  
Down in the depths of my heart  
I've got the wonderful love of my blessed Redeemer  
Way down in the depths of my heart (where?)  
Down in the depths of my heart to stay

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

Let us admit to God the foolish choices we make each and every day.

**Most merciful God, we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. Believing we have to be serious all the time, we miss out on the joy of your creation. We don't share in the happiness that is rightfully ours. We forget that you will have the last laugh in this world. Turn us again to you, and restore to us the joy of our salvation, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace we have been saved. Almighty God strengthens you with power through the Holy Spirit, so that the joy of the resurrected Christ lives in your hearts. **Amen.**

## **PEACE GREETING**

Through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, we are filled with Easter joy! Therefore, let us greet one another with a sign of His peace. The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. **Lord of Life, we praise you for the gifts of laughter and delight. May these blessings give hints as to your purpose for us and for all creation. Awaken in us the true sense of Easter joy, that in giving up to laughter there is healing and hope, abundance and joy, happiness and blessing. Tickle our souls with the brush of your Holy Spirit to renew our faith and restore our lives. Amen.**

## FIRST READING: Acts 5: 27-32

<sup>27</sup>When they had brought [the apostles,] they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, <sup>28</sup>saying, “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man’s blood on us.” <sup>29</sup>But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than any human authority. <sup>30</sup>The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. <sup>31</sup>God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. <sup>32</sup>And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.”

## PSALM: Psalm 118: 14-29

<sup>14</sup>The Lord is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation.

<sup>15</sup>**Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous: “The right hand of the Lord acts valiantly!**

<sup>16</sup>The right hand of the Lord is exalted! The right hand of the Lord acts valiantly!”

<sup>17</sup>**I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.**

<sup>18</sup>The Lord indeed punished me sorely, but did not hand me over to death.

<sup>19</sup>**Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them and give thanks to the Lord.**

<sup>20</sup>“This is the gate of the Lord; here the righteous may enter.”

<sup>21</sup>**I give thanks to you, for you have answered me and you have become my salvation.**

<sup>22</sup>The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

<sup>23</sup>**By the Lord has this been done; it is marvelous in our eyes.**

<sup>24</sup>This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

<sup>25</sup>**Hosanna! O Lord, save us! We pray to you, Lord, prosper our days!**

<sup>26</sup>Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord; we bless you from the house of the Lord.

<sup>27</sup>**The Lord is God and has given us light. Form a procession with branches up to the corners of the altar.**

<sup>28</sup>You are my God, and I will thank you; you are my God, and I will exalt you.

<sup>29</sup>**Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good; God’s mercy endures forever.**

## SECOND READING: Revelation 1: 4-8

<sup>4</sup>John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, <sup>5</sup>and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, <sup>6</sup>and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. <sup>7</sup>Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. <sup>8</sup>“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

## GOSPEL: John 20: 19-31

<sup>19</sup>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.” <sup>20</sup>After

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

<sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>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." <sup>26</sup>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." <sup>27</sup>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." <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup>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."

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

### **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: Final Bucket Update**

**MESSAGE: "Nothing Like Easter"**

**HYMN OF THE DAY: *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, A grave cloth lies 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!"

When the doors were locked in fear, Christ the Lord again came near.  
Peace be with you! twice he said, Now I send you in my stead.  
Take the Spirit and forgive, Show the world that I do live.  
Let my love cast out all fear, Trust that I am always near!  
Witness to the Risen One, Share my peace with everyone!

### **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**  
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
and born of the virgin Mary.**  
**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
He descended into Hell.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into Heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS**

Response to: "Lord, in your mercy," . . . **Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray together the prayer Jesus taught us:

## **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.**

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

We celebrate the presence of God in bread and wine. All are welcome to receive this gift.

## **BENEDICTION**

May the God of humor and joy bring you sunshine and a smile to your face.

May the God of love and laughter be with you in all that you do and say.

And may Christ, Our Risen Savior, always be there by your side to bless you, for the good work has just begun!  
Amen.

**SENDING SONG:** *Go Tell It On The Cellphone*  
(Tune: *Go Tell It On The Mountain*)

*Refrain:*

Go tell it on the cellphone,  
FaceTime and Skype and all those Zooms,  
Go tell it on the cellphone  
That Jesus is alive.

While soldiers watched the gravesite  
That quiet Sunday dawn  
There came a big commotion  
And then the storm was gone. *Refrain*

The women found no body  
Their spices to anoint;  
Instead they found an angel,  
God's message to appoint. *Refrain*

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 laughter. Go in grace. Keep the Lord in your heart and a smile on your face. **Thanks be to God!**

### POSTLUDE

+++++

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Masks are OPTIONAL** at all Salem functions. If you are more comfortable wearing a mask, please feel free to do so, but it is not a requirement. **Social distancing continues to be observed** and we will continue to receive Communion in our seats using the Worship Bags. Additional seating remains available in the basement where the Services can be viewed via video live stream. The Service continues to be available on Salem's website.

### **CHURCH CUSTODIAN NEEDED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!**

Salem Church is in need of a Church Custodian. Salem Council is accepting bids for this position immediately. Bids are to be a yearly salary bid. This job entails approximately 8 – 10-hours per week. **Copies of the job description/agreement are on the table at the back of the sanctuary and on top of the sound system.** If you are interested in this position (or perhaps you have a family member or friend who could be a “Co-Custodian” with you), please submit your bids by mailing them to: Salem Lutheran Church; Atten: Council President; 899 Salem Road; Selinsgrove, PA 17870, or emailing them to Council Co-Presidents Barry Heim (bheim@stahlsheaffer.com) and/or Neil Klinger (neilklinger6@gmail.com). **Please submit your bids by May 6<sup>th</sup>.** Please consider helping your church by filling this position, or if you know someone who would be a good fit, please pass the word. Thank you.

**Packing the Buckets!** It's time to pack all the buckets we filled! After worship **TODAY**, we will gather in the basement “assembly-line-style” to pack the buckets! Many hands make light work, so **please plan to join us** for 30-minutes or so and join the fun!



**Thank You** to everyone who participated in our “Hoss’ Fundraiser Day” last Thursday.

**Prayer Meeting** will be held on Wednesday, April 27 at 7:00 pm.

**Adult Sunday School** is held each Sunday at 9:30 am in the church basement. Join us as we open the Scriptures and learn with, and from, one another!



**Spring Clean-Up! Men & Women Are Needed!** Spring Clean-Up Day will be held on **Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>** beginning at **8:00 am**. It's time to spruce-up the **inside and outside of the church and clean-up the grove** to prepare for summer activities. Bring your outdoor equipment - wheelbarrows, rakes, shovels, weed-whackers, bush/hedge trimmers, etc. and also indoor cleaning equipment – dust rags/Swiffers, buckets, sponges, brooms, etc. **The rain date will be Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am**. Thank you to all who contribute their time and efforts in keeping our church and grove looking beautiful inside and out!



The Honor Guards of American Legion Victory Post #25 and VFW Post #6631, both of Selinsgrove, **will be coming to Salem Cemetery on Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup> at approximately 10:50 am**, for a brief ceremony to pay respects and honor all the Veterans buried in our cemetery. **Please plan to attend** to help us remember those who served and protected our country.