

# *Celebration of Worship*

*Second Sunday of Easter*

*"Holy Humor Sunday"*

**April 8, 2018**

**9:30 A.M.**

We welcome you to worship. We are glad that you are here! Nursery and Preschool care is available if you need it. The Young and Young at Heart are welcomed to the front early on for a special time in the service. Please sign the Friendship Pads so that we can get to know you better, and join us for coffee in the Narthex after the service.

## ***Thoughts for Reflection***

*"Creator – a comedian whose audience is afraid to laugh!"*

*H.L. Mechen*

*"Laughter is the closest thing to the grace of God."*

*Karl Barth*

*"Mirth is God's medicine. Everybody ought to bathe in it."*

*Henry Ward Beecher*

*"What did God say the first time he saw Niagara Falls? Oh, my Self!"*

*Norman Cousins*

*"Grace is spiritual WD-40! Water wings! The mystery of grace is that God loves (the person you most despise) as much as He or She loves your grandchild. Go figure. The movement of grace is what changes us and our world. To summon grace, say 'HELP!' And then buckle up. Grace won't look like Casper the Friendly Ghost, but the phone will ring, or the mail will come, and then against all odds you will get your sense of humor about yourself back. Laughter really is carbonated holiness, even when we are sick of hearing it."*

*Anne Lamott*

WELCOME

RINGING THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE

*Fanfare*

Lemmons

HOLY HUMOR CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

Leader: O praise to the God of laughter whose humor sends ripples through even the river of death; who turns a mustard seed into a tree.

**People: Like a trickster, you turn my life topsy-turvy!**

Leader: Here in the Fun House the popular routes lead me in circles, but the dead ends have doors.

**All: O for a thousand tongues to sing the praise of One who is All, who is invisible as the wind, yet firm as a rock.**

\* Please stand, if you are able.

\* HYMN *Take Time to be Funny* Words – see insert  
Sung to the tune of *Be Thou My Vision*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

God of laughter and joy, we know that you have blessed us richly. Yet so often we are down in the dumps over silly little disappointments. You have given us Jesus Christ, raised him from the dead, and promised us eternal life. But we act as though 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.

*Silence*

PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS

Christ is raised from the dead! Love wins! Hallelujah! Christ lives and reigns for us! Hallelujah! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

WORDS FOR THE YOUNG AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

Message *Laughing is good for us!*

Prayer

*(Children and Youth are dismissed for Sunday School.)*

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON *Psalm 126*

p. 499

GOSPEL LESSON *I John 1:1 – 2:2*

p. 989

SERMON

*Risus Paschalis*  
Pastor Larry De Vuyst

HOLY HUMOR AFFIRMATION (responsively)

One: We believe in God, who made us in his own image, male and female.

**All: We live, we love, we laugh, because we are like God.**

One: We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Lord and Savior.

**All: He had the last laugh on the devil when he rose from the dead.**

One: We believe in the Holy Spirit, co-equal and co-eternal with the Father and the Son,

**All: Our counselor, our guide, our motivator - He is joy!**

One: Forgive us when we take ourselves too seriously, when we don't claim the happiness that is rightfully ours as your children, when we forget that you will have the last laugh in this world.

**All: Restore to us the joy of our salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

\* HYMN *Christ Joyful – We Lack the Gift of Laughter* Words – see insert  
Sung to the tune of *The Church's One Foundation*

BRINGING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS TO GOD

OFFERTORY *Alleluia* arr. Kirk  
Chancel Choir

DOXOLOGY (# 592) AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (Debts/debtors)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

\* HYMN *When We Are Tempted* Words – see insert  
Sung to the tune of *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

\* BENEDICTION

\* POSTLUDE *Psalms 19* Marcello

\* PRAYER UNDER THE CROSS