



Holy Humor Sunday
April 27, 2025
9:30 am



**DIAMOND
LAKE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

Welcome to Diamond Lake Lutheran Church!

We are so glad you are here! If you'd like more information about this community of faith, please fill out a Welcome card (found in the pew pockets near the hymnals) and place it in the offering plate or hand it to Pastor Andrea or an usher following worship. Take the Grow card with you if you wish! We invite you to enjoy coffee and Bogart's Doughnuts in the Commons before and after worship. Please leave your nametag on during the fellowship time.

Children in Worship

Children are encouraged to be present for worship—build-your-own activity bags are located in the narthex, along with children's bulletins. Children are invited to use the Pray-Ground at the front of the sanctuary. A nursery is located on the lower level if you need it. Please ask an usher for directions. If you are a nursing parent, you are welcome to nurse anywhere. If you would like privacy, there is a nursing room in the nursery downstairs.

Special Assistance

Hearing devices and large print bulletins are available. Please see the ushers for assistance.

Participating in Today's Service

Pastor: Rev. Andrea Roske-Metcalf

Assisting Minister: Robb Bass

Pianist/Organist: Dr. Kevin Hobbs

Acolyte: Lyle Dean

Greeters: Lisa Bass, Karen Gabrielson

Reader: Bob Kresse

Communion Servers: Julie Schmidt, Lisa Bass, Sue Nelson

Ushers: Paul Groskreutz, Adam Podratz, Theo Brent

A/V Tech: John Nelson, Frank Anderson

Nursery: Mary Teurman

Coffee Hosts: Sue Nelson

Pursers: Carisa Brent, Gene Zemske

HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY

Today we celebrate the holiness of laughter, remembering during this Easter season that the resurrection was the biggest joke God ever played on the devil.

We invite you to rise in body or in spirit each time the ‡ symbol appears.

PRELUDE

"Minstrels" from Preludes, Book I, Debussy

WORDS OF WELCOME

TRINITY CHIMES

‡ GATHERING LITANY

We believe in God, who made us in Their image.

We live, we love, we laugh, because we are like Them.

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

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

We believe in the Holy Spirit, co-equal and co-eternal with the Creator and the Christ.

Our counselor, our guide, our motivator – the Spirit is our joy!

Forgive us, Lord, 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.

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

‡ **GATHERING EASTER CAROL**

God Bless You Merry Sinner

(Sung to the tune of God Rest Ye Merry, Gentleman)

God bless you merry sinner,
you're forgiven it is true;
Remember Christ your Savior
has lived and died for you,
and lives again as King of Kings,
of saint and sinner, too.
Oh, tidings of Easter peace and joy,
peace and joy.
Oh, tidings of Easter peace and joy.

In Jerusalem at Calvary
that dismal Friday morn,
amid the pain and suffering
eternal life was born.
It came with arms outstretched to us,
right through the curtain torn.
Oh, tidings of Easter peace and joy,
peace and joy.
Oh, tidings of Easter peace and joy.

So sing an alleluia,
for our Savior's victory,
and shout to all "Hosanna!"
that we have been set free
from sin and death and devil's grip
throughout eternity.
We'll have tidings of Easter peace and joy,
peace and joy.
Glad tidings of Easter peace and joy.

‡ GREETING

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

And also with you.

‡ PRAYER OF THE DAY

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 of grace and forgiveness, and help us to laugh when the world presses in around us and we are afraid. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

ELW pg. 227

Beau and Maxwell Slover

Parents: Greta Egge and Greg Slover

Sponsors: Erica and John Hageman, Laurie Visee, Seth Johnson

Congregational Representative: Julie Schmidt

CANTICLE OF WELCOME

You Belong to Christ

The musical score is written for two systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are written below the notes.

System 1:
You be - long to Christ, in whom you have been bap - tized.

System 2:
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

‡ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

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

The musical score is written for two voices (Soprano and Bass) and piano accompaniment. It consists of two systems. Each system has a vocal line with a treble clef and a piano line with a bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The tempo is marked 'Allegretto'. The music is in 4/4 time. The lyrics are 'Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' The first system ends with a double bar line, and the second system ends with a double bar line.

‡ READING: GENESIS 18:1-14

A reading from the book of Genesis, the 18th Chapter.

The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them and bowed down to the ground. He said, “My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah and said, “Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.” Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared and set it before them, and he stood by them under the tree while they ate. They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.” Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your

wife Sarah shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I be fruitful?” The Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN

Rev. Andrea Roske-Metcalf

EASTER CAROL OF THE DAY

Hark the Herald Angel Said

(Sung to the tune of *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*)

Hark the herald angel said,
“Why seek Jesus with the dead?
He's not here, as you can see,
gravecloths lie 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!”

‡ 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.

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.

Risen Christ,

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.

Risen Christ,

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.

Risen Christ,

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. These and all the prayers of our hearts we offer now in the name of Jesus, our risen Savior,

Amen.

‡ **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

You may share the peace with those around you.

OFFERING

O Little Town of Bethlehem, arr. Hayes

Kevin Hobbs

General Fund

We give thanks for all the ways members and friends of Diamond Lake Lutheran Church contribute to the mission and vision of this congregation - gifts of time, gifts of participation and expertise, as well as finances. Financial gifts to the general fund help to make possible both in-house and outreach ministries, as well as sharing of our resources with the wider community.

April Mission of the Month: Transmission Ministry Collective

As the federal government continues to curtail the rights of transgender people, organizations like Transmission Ministry Collective (TMC) are more vital than ever. By fostering an inclusive Christian community, offering pastoral care, and equipping churches to be places of welcome, TMC ensures that transgender people can live out their faith with dignity and without fear. At the core of TMC's mission is the belief that people of all gender identities and expressions are fully loved by God and should be supported at every level by their Christian siblings. Recognizing that trans and gender-expansive individuals are co-creators and stewards of their own bodies, TMC advocates for their right to self-identify, access transition-related care, and pursue the paths that bring them into alignment with themselves.

How to Give to the General Fund and/or the Mission of the Month

Write a check to Diamond Lake Lutheran Church with "General Fund" or "Mission of the Month" (or both) in the memo line and place it in the offering plate. If you are offering cash, you may use a "Give Back" envelope from the pew pocket to designate a fund.

or

Give online at www.dllc.org via the “Give Back” page or scan the QR code and select “Give to General Fund” or Mission of the Month” from the dropdown menu. Please repeat the process to give to both funds. Thank you!



‡ OFFERTORY

Musical notation for the Offertory, consisting of five staves of music in treble clef. The melody is written in a simple, accessible style with various note values and rests. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

‡ OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace
along with these gifts we bring.

Come among us again,
breathe your life into us,
and enliven us with this meal,
that we may live as your risen body in the world.

Amen.

‡ WORDS OF INSTITUTION

‡ 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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat
at God's table.

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION

As Christ offered himself without restriction to those gathered at the last supper, so too he invites all gathered here to partake in this meal. If you wish to receive the sacrament, come forward with your hands outstretched to receive the bread, and dip it either in the red wine or the white grape juice (both offered in each chalice).

If you wish to receive a blessing, come forward with your hands over your heart.

Gluten-free wafers are available upon request, and a chalice of grape juice is provided for gluten-free intinction. If it is difficult for you to come forward, please inform an usher, and the pastor will bring the sacrament to you in your seat.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Light Dawns on a Weary World.....ELW 726

This is My Father's World.....ELW 824

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Foolish God, your belly laugh echoes through the world.

We have responded to your invitation to join in the Banquet.

Here we have eaten, we have drunk, we have tasted your goodness.

May the joy we find in this meal together lift up our hearts,

may we carry your laughter into the world around us,

may we live out that foolishness called love wherever we go.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

‡ BLESSING

May the God of surprises

bring smiles and joys to the everyday and ordinary.

May the God of love

be seen in all we do and say.

Go forth rejoicing,

for God's good work has just begun!

Amen.

‡ SENDING EASTER CAROL

Go Tell It on the Mountain

*Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere,
Go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus is alive.*

1. While soldiers watched the gravesite
that quiet Sunday dawn
there came a big commotion
and then the storm was gone.

*Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere,
Go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus is alive.*

*Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere,
Go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus is alive.*

2. The women found no body
their spices to anoint;
instead they found an angel,
God's message to appoint.
3. Go from where He isn't
to where He said He'd be.
An Easter-time reunion:
the hills of Galilee. *(Repeat chorus)*

‡ **DISMISSAL**

O God,
on Easter the thunder of your voice
caused the stone to roll away from Christ's tomb.

**Make the ground shake beneath us,
so that our feet shall dance,
so that we shall leap up, run out the door,
and carry love to a waiting world.**

Amen.

POSTLUDE

Humoreske, Shchedrin

Holy Humor Sunday (also known as Laughter Sunday, Bright Sunday or Holy Fools Sunday) has its roots in a number of different Christian traditions. Churches in 15th century Bavaria used to celebrate the Sunday after Easter as *Risus Paschalis* (“God’s Joke,” or “the Easter laugh”). Priests would deliberately include amusing stories and jokes in their sermons in an attempt to make the faithful laugh. After the service, people would gather together to play practical jokes on one another and tell funny stories. It was their way of celebrating the resurrection of Christ – the supreme joke God played on Satan by raising Jesus from the dead.

The observance of *Risus Paschalis* was officially outlawed by Pope Clement X in the 17th century. Perhaps people were having too much fun! In the Orthodox tradition, people would gather on Easter Monday to tell jokes and funny stories, and to dance and eat together.

Other traditions include Laetare Sunday (also known as ‘Mothering Sunday’) on the fourth Sunday in Lent. “*Laetare*” simply means ‘rejoice,’ and comes from the opening collect for that day: ‘Rejoice with joy, you that have been in sorrow.’ On this Sunday, the usual Lenten purple vestments and altar cloths are replaced by rose-colored ones instead. Flowers (not normally present during Lent) are also brought into the sanctuary.

In 1988, the Fellowship of Merry Christians began encouraging churches to resurrect some of these Christian traditions—to celebrate the grace and mercy of God through the gift of laughter and joy.

Great Litany © 2024 Charlton Church, Harrisburg, PA; Prayer of the Day © 2024 Christ the King Lutheran Church, Gladwin, MI; Great Thanksgiving adapted from work © 2006 Thom M Shuman, lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com; Prayer After Communion © 2013 Gord Waldie, worshipofferings.blogspot.ca; Blessing adapted from work by Rev. Susan A. Blain and Rev. Scott Ressman, <http://www.ucc.org/50/pdfs/worship-resources.pdf>; Prayers of the People posted by Sue on revgalblogpals.blogspot.com; Dismissal by Rev. Barbara L. Housley, from Holy Humor Sunday celebrations at the Mountainhome United Methodist Church, PA. Remaining liturgy from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #26148. Scripture: New Revised Standard Version Bible Updated Edition, copyright 2021, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. All rights reserved. Music reprinted and livestreamed with permission from One License Annual License w/Podcasting A-713025. All rights reserved: Gospel Acclamation, Music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc; Offertory, Text and music © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress; Canticle of Welcome (You Belong to Christ), Text © 2002 and music © 2003 Augsburg Fortress; Light Dawns on a Weary World, Text © 2002, GIA Publications, Inc, Music © 2000 William P. Rowan, admin. GIA Publications; O Little Town of Bethlehem, © 1991 GlorySound (Admin. by Hal Leonard LLC) (Admin. by Tom Cat Music)

We acknowledge that we gather as Diamond Lake Lutheran Church on the traditional land of the Wahpekute band of the Santee division of the Dakota people past and present.

Our mission: Stirred by the Spirit of Christ to learn, follow, and serve.

5760 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55417 + 612-866-2579 + www.dllc.org

Diamond Lake Lutheran Program Staff

Rev. Andrea Roske-Metcalf
she/her
Lead Pastor
andrea.roske-metcalf@dllc.org

Austen Hartke
he/him
Business Administrator
dllc.office@dllc.org

John Pedersen
he/him
Director of Community
Outreach
john.pedersen@dllc.org

Lacy Tooker-Kirkevold
she/they
Director of Children, Youth, and
Family Ministries
lacy.tooker-kirkevold@dllc.org

Kristine Spanier
she/her
Director of Communications
kristine.spanier@dllc.org

Parker Webster
he/him
Parish Nurse
parker.webster@dllc.org

Brian “B” Foster
he/she/they
Facilities Coordinator
brian.foster@dllc.org