

**Good Soil Lutheran Ministries**  
*Growing Together in Christ to Love and Serve*



**Second Sunday of Easter**  
**Holy Humor Sunday**  
**April 16, 2023**  
**9:30 am**



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Rocky River, OH 44116  
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Instagram: [goodsoilchurch](https://www.instagram.com/goodsoilchurch)  
YouTube: [Good Soil Lutheran Ministries](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

### Welcome

We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ.

### For Parents with Children

Good Soil loves kids and the "holy noise" they bring! Your children are warmly welcome in worship. Sing, pray, and respond; your children will learn by worshiping with you. There's also a "prayground" area in the back of the sanctuary and a nursery/cry room behind that on the back left side. We pray that worshiping together as a family is a meaningful experience!

### For Those Needing Hearing Assistance

Please ask an usher about our hearing assistance devices to enhance your worship experience.

### Holy Communion

Christ is truly present with us in worship and through this meal. All are welcome to participate in Holy Communion here at Good Soil. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available upon request.

Key:

**Bold Font** – Spoken by the Congregation

Regular Font – Spoken by the Pastor or Worship Assistant

† – Please stand as you are able, in body or spirit.

## Second Sunday of Easter/Holy Humor Sunday

*In today's gospel the risen Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace. Even amid doubts and questions, we experience the resurrection in our Sunday gathering around word and meal, and in our everyday lives. We celebrate resurrection joy today by observing "Holy Humor Sunday," also called "Bright Sunday." The custom is rooted in the musings of early church theologians (like Augustine, Gregory of Nyssa, and John Chrysostom) that God played a joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead. "Risus paschalis" the Easter laugh, the early theologians called it. Lets us rejoice and praise the Lord!*

### Gathering

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

#### **Prelude and Welcome**

#### **† Call to Worship for Holy Humor Sunday**

Joy is loose:

**In the wiggles of the children, the whispers of the youth, the smiles of the adults.**

We praise God for this glorious day,

**Let praise break forth in the most unlikely places and in silly ways.**

Joy fills our hearts and fills our songs,

**Let the laughter be deep, for we are God's people.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*In  
Thanksgiving  
for Baptism,  
we recall how  
God has joined  
us to Christ  
through  
baptism and  
clothes us with  
mercy and  
forgiveness.*

*The  
thanksgiving  
praises God for  
all of God's  
saving actions  
through water  
and the word,  
praying and  
trusting that  
this assembly  
will be  
renewed by  
the Holy Spirit  
in forgiveness,  
grace, and  
love.*

## † Thanksgiving for Baptism

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are welcomed, restored, and supported  
as citizens of the new creation.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God,  
holy and merciful,  
holy and mighty,  
you are the river of life,  
you are the everlasting wellspring.

In mercy and might you have freed us from death  
and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead.  
In baptismal waters our old life is washed away,  
and in them we are born anew.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes,  
for rivers and streams.

Honor to you for waters that wash us clean,  
quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures.  
Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism,  
the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you.  
Empower our witness to your resurrection.  
Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.  
Satisfy the world's need through this living water.

Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment.  
Where despair prevails, grant hope.  
Where chaos reigns, bring peace.  
We ask this through Christ,  
who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.

**Amen.**

† Gathering Hymn: Thine Is the Glory ELW 376

1 Thine is the glory,  
risen, conqu'ring Son;  
endless is the vict'ry  
thou o'er death hast won!  
Angels in bright raiment  
rolled the stone away,  
kept the folded grave-clothes  
where thy body lay.

*Refrain*

Thine is the glory,  
risen, conqu'ring Son;  
endless is the vict'ry  
thou o'er death hast won!

2 Lo, Jesus meets thee,  
risen from the tomb!  
Lovingly he greets thee,  
scatters fear and gloom;  
let his church with gladness  
hymns of triumph sing,  
for the Lord now liveth;  
death hath lost its sting! *Refrain*

3 No more we doubt thee,  
glorious Prince of life;  
life is naught without thee;  
aid us in our strife;  
make us more than conqu'rors,  
through thy deathless love;  
bring us safe through Jordan  
to thy home above. *Refrain*

Text: Edmond Budry, 1854-1932; tr. R. Birch Hoyle, 1875-1939

*The assembly is greeted with words used by Paul in 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians to greet churches. The assembly also greets the presiding minister in return. It is a moment of mutuality that signifies trust, love, mutual service, and a shared hope in God.*

## † 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.

*Along with the return of the Alleluia, the Hymn of Praise returns on Easter Sunday to signify the joy of the resurrection.*

## † Hymn of Praise

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

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

I Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.



Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and



hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and



join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to



God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

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

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

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

*The Prayer of the Day highlights themes from the scripture readings we are about to hear.*

### † Prayer of the Day

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### The Word

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 22-32

To put this reading into context:

*After the Holy Spirit comes to the apostles on Pentecost, Peter preaches the gospel to the gathered crowd. He tells them that Jesus, who obediently went to his death, was raised from the dead by God. Finally, he appeals to scripture, quoting Psalm 16:8-11, to show that Jesus is the Messiah: though crucified, the risen Jesus is now enthroned.*

Hear now the reading:



<sup>14a</sup>Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd], <sup>22</sup>“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—<sup>23</sup>this man, handed over to you according to the foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. <sup>24</sup>But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. <sup>25</sup>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; <sup>26</sup>therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will live in hope. <sup>27</sup>For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. <sup>28</sup>You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

<sup>29</sup>“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. <sup>30</sup>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. <sup>31</sup>Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, ‘He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.’ <sup>32</sup>This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.”

Word of God. Word of Life.  
Thanks be to God.

### Psalm 16:1-2, 5-11



<sup>1</sup>Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;  
I have said to the LORD, “You are my Lord, my good above  
all other.”

<sup>2</sup>All my delight is in the godly that are | in the land,  
upon those who are noble a- | mong the people.

<sup>5</sup>O LORD, you are my portion | and my cup;  
it is you who up- | hold my lot.

<sup>6</sup>My boundaries enclose a | pleasant land;  
indeed, I have a | rich inheritance.

<sup>7</sup>I will bless the LORD who | gives me counsel;  
my heart teaches me night | after night.

<sup>8</sup>I have set the LORD al- | ways before me;  
because God is at my right hand, I shall | not be shaken.

<sup>9</sup>My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spir- | it rejoices;  
my body also shall | rest in hope.

<sup>10</sup>For you will not abandon me | to the grave,  
nor let your holy one | see the pit.

<sup>11</sup>You will show me the | path of life;  
in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand  
are pleasures for- | evermore.

*We welcome  
the gospel by  
singing the  
Lenten  
Acclamation.  
We rise, if able,  
in anticipation  
of Christ being  
revealed to us  
through the  
Living Word of  
the Gospel.*

† Gospel Acclamation: Halle Halle Hallelujah ELW 172

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - 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.

Music: Caribbean traditional

*The Gospel is  
announced.  
Following the  
reading of the  
Gospel, we*

† Gospel: John 20:19-31

To put this gospel reading into context:

*give thanks  
and praise to  
Jesus Christ,  
who is  
revealed to us  
through the  
Gospel  
reading.*

*The story of "doubting Thomas" is always assigned for the Second Sunday of Easter. The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. When one of their number is missing, the Risen Lord visits again. Today's reading is an interpretation in the style of Dr. Seuss, written by The Rev. Dr. Jim Moiso.*

The holy Gospel according to John.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Well, we had all gone hiding  
and we wondered what to do.  
Our lives, our dreams all broken  
and God seemed absent too.

Now saviors are not s'posed to die,  
but save us with God's power.  
Least that is what I used to think  
before that strange encounter.

Absent was I the night he came,  
I don't remember what doing.  
We had not trusted Mary's word,  
"The Lord I've seen," proclaiming.

Impossible. Preposterous.  
How could she believe such things?  
She's just a woman, that we knew.  
In grieving, to him she clings.

And then he spoke, here's what he said,  
"Peace be with you, my friends."  
They must have looked all startled then,  
'cause "Peace" he said again.

Amazed, remembered they his word  
the night before he died:  
God's peace he'd bring to us in life,

our joy'd be multiplied.

But then a strange thing happened.  
Why, Jesus appeared once more.  
He came right up before me,  
without even op'ning the door.

No condemnation in his eyes,  
no judgment on his tongue.  
No halo, overwhelming light,  
just presence, wounds and love.

My knees they shook, my eyes were blurred,  
a realist I always had been.  
In his presence I blurted out  
"My Lord and God," who'd risen.

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

**Sermon: The Rev. Marissa Harrison**

*Thinking theologically is a spiritual practice.  
You're invited to reflect on the following question:*

*When have you experienced the "humor" of God in your life?*

**† Hymn of the Day: Deck the Halls (Easter Version)**

1 Deck the halls with Easter lilies,  
Fa-la-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia  
Dance a jig and sing the sillies,  
Fa-la-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia  
Christ our Lord is here today,  
Fa-la-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia  
So we laugh and praise and pray,  
Fa-la-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia!

- 2 Merry Christians rejoice and sing,  
 Fa-la-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia  
 Now's the triumph of our King,  
 Fa-la-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia  
 Lord of Life is ris'n this day,  
 Fa-la-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia  
 Let the world rejoice and say,  
 Fa-la-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia!
- 3 Songs of joy to Christ our head,  
 Fa-la-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia  
 Lives again who once was dead,  
 Fa-la-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia  
 Life was purchased by his loss,  
 Fa-la-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia  
 Died our death upon the cross,  
 Fa-la-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia!

*As the church,  
 we pray for  
 those in our  
 community  
 and around the  
 world. The  
 prayers are  
 also  
 responsive,  
 emphasizing  
 our own  
 participation.*

*Each petition  
 addresses a  
 different topic,  
 often in the  
 same pattern:*

*+ The Church  
 + Creation*

## † Prayers of Intercession

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*


God of rebirth, the good news of your resurrection brings refreshment to a weary world. Empower us to boldly share your radical love through our words and our work. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

As you breathed your Spirit into the disciples, breathe your spirit of healing upon all creation. Strengthen us to counter the effects of pollution and destruction. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You prepared the disciples for their ministry by calming their fears and granting them your peace. Equip our communities' leaders.

<p>+ Nations and leaders  + Those in need  + This faith community  + The great cloud of witnesses/those now resting with God</p>	<p>Give them a spirit of peace and hearts that burn for justice, that their leadership reflects your love. Hear us, O God. <b>Your mercy is great.</b></p> <p>You come among us in unexpected ways. Send us to those who hide in fear or question your love. Be a healing presence for any isolated by addiction, incarceration, mental illness, chronic pain, sickness, or grief. We especially hold in our prayers today: Peter, Helen, Kaethe, Andrew, Martha and Jamie, Willie, Char, Marlon, Rich, Dick and Joan, Marie, Anna, Patricia, Jeanette, Archer, our siblings in Christ at Trinity Lutheran Lakewood as they prepare for Holy Closure...and all those we name aloud or silently in our hearts. Hear us, O God. <b>Your mercy is great.</b></p> <p>Rejoicing in the victory of Christ’s resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. <b>Amen.</b></p>
<p><i>A practice of the ancient church, where we recognize Christ’s peace in one another and share it together.</i></p>	<p>† <b>Passing of the Peace</b></p> <p>The Peace of Christ be with you always  <b>And also with you.</b></p> <p><i>The people greet one another saying, “Peace” or “Peace be with you” sharing the peace of Christ with one another in a no-touch or low-touch way, such as a wave, peace sign, or elbow bump.</i></p>
<p><i>God entrusts us with everything we have. Our offering is one way we give thanks to God and support</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>The Meal</u></b>  <i>God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.</i></p> <p><b>Offering</b></p> <p>God’s ministry through Good Soil makes a difference, and your offering makes that possible. Help Good Soil continue making an impact by giving today at <a href="http://www.goodsoillutheran.org/support">www.goodsoillutheran.org/support</a> or by using this QR code:</p>

<p><i>the ministry of the church.</i></p>	<p><i>Aim your phone camera at the QR code, but don't take a picture. A link will appear to click on that will take you to Good Soil's support page.</i></p>	
<p><i>The offering is brought forward to the altar to signify our gratitude for God's blessings.</i></p>	<p><b>† Offering Hymn: Alleluia! Jesus is Risen</b>    <b>ELW 377 vs 1</b></p> <p>1 Alleluia! Jesus is risen!  Trumpets resounding in glorious light!  Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever!  Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!</p> <p><i>Refrain</i></p> <p>Jesus is risen and we shall arise.  Give God the glory! Alleluia!</p> <p><small>Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926 Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.</small></p>	
	<p><b>† Offering Prayer</b></p> <p>Generous God,  in this meal you offer your very self.  We give thanks for these gifts of the earth.  In the breaking of this bread  reveal to us the Risen One.  In the pouring of this wine  pour us out in service to the world;  through Christ our Lord. <b>Amen.</b></p>	
	<p><b>† Great Thanksgiving</b></p> <p>The Lord be with you.  <b>And also with you.</b></p> <p>Lift up your hearts.  <b>We lift them to the Lord.</b></p>	

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

† Preface

† Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow - er and might,  
heav - en 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.

† Eucharistic Prayer and Words of Institution

*The Lord's Prayer is Jesus' response to his disciples when they asked him to teach them how to pray.*

† Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray together as Jesus first taught us:

**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 the Table

Come, see, experience, and believe in the Risen Christ, and God's great love poured out for you. **Amen.**

*We will continue to observe standing processional communion throughout the season of Easter—standing is considered “the posture of resurrection.” Another way for us to embody the resurrection of Jesus!*

## † Communion

*Christ is with us in this meal. All who are hungry for the presence of Jesus are welcome to commune here at Good Soil. Children are welcome to come to the Lord's table for communion or for a blessing, depending on parent/guardian's preference.*

*When you receive the elements, you are invited to respond with “Amen” or “Thanks be to God.”*

*Please wait for the usher to release your row before proceeding down the center aisle to the front. We will be observing standing processional communion, rather than kneeling at the rail.*

*Gluten-free bread is available upon request. The wine (red) is in the outer rings of the tray, the grape juice (white) is in the center. Communion cups can be returned at the end tables on your way back to your seat.*

## Communion Hymn: One Bread, One Body ELW 496

### *Refrain*

One bread, one body, one Lord of all;  
one cup of blessing which we bless,  
and we, though many throughout the earth,  
we are one body in this one Lord.

- 1 Gentile or Jew, servant or free,  
woman or man, no more. *Refrain*
- 2 Many the gifts, many the works,  
one in the Lord of all. *Refrain*

3 Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,  
gathered to one for all. *Refrain*

Text: John Foley, SJ, b. 1939. Text © 1978 John B. Foley, SJ and OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

† **Post-Communion Table Blessing**

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you  
and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

† **Blessing**

The God of all,  
who raised † Jesus from the dead,  
bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit  
to live in the new creation. **Amen.**

*Through the  
sending hymn  
we are sent out  
into the world  
to follow Jesus.*

† **Sending Hymn: That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright ELW 384**

- 1 That Easter day with joy was bright;  
the sun shone out with fairer light  
when, to their longing eyes restored,  
th'apostles saw their risen Lord!
- 2 O Jesus, king of gentleness,  
with constant love our hearts possess;  
to you our lips will ever raise  
the tribute of our grateful praise.
- 3 O Christ, you are the Lord of all  
in this our Easter festival,  
for you will be our strength and shield  
from ev'ry weapon death can wield.
- 4 All praise, O risen Lord, we give  
to you, once dead, but now alive!

To God the Father equal praise,  
and God the Spirit, now we raise!

Text: Latin hymn, 5th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

*The dismissal  
sends us out as  
Christ's Body—  
fed, nourished,  
and ready to  
serve. Worship  
has ended, and  
our service  
begins!*

† **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

*You are warmly invited to gather in the upstairs lounge area  
for coffee hour immediately following worship.*

### Coffee Hour Discussion Question:

**When have you experienced the “humor” of God in your life?**

Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible © 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA. Used by permission.

Scripture “Reading”: John 20:19-31 a la Dr. Seuss written by Rev. Dr. Jim Moiso, accessed here: <https://roundlakeumc.weebly.com/what-are-we-talking-about-prayer-requests/holy-humor-sunday-41920>

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Holy Humor Sunday Call to Worship adapted from Trinity United Parish, accessed here: <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2017/04/call-to-worship-holy-humor-sunday.html>

### **Today's Worship Servants:**

Presiding: The Rev. Marissa Harrison	Reader: William Eversole
Ushers: Chris Jacobson Larry Jacobson	Counters: Larry Jacobson Michael Wancata

Online Usher: Ellen Young	Acolyte: Amelia Forshey
Livestream: Michael Wancata Communion Assistants: Laura and Shawn O'Neil	Sunday School Teachers: Louise Debell (Early Learners) Mandy Forshey (Primary) Darlene Wahl (Middle Schoolers)



## Announcements from Good Soil Sunday, April 16, 2023

**For those in need of healing, comfort, or strength:** Peter Alexander, Helen Andrews, Kaethe Buchholz, Andrew Evatt, Martha and Jamie Lanter, Willie Lee, Char Mattson, Marlon Naylor, Rich Petrusky, Dick and Joan Schluep, Marie Sternad, Anna Sykaluk, Patricia Wancata, Jeanette Weidlich, Archer Oster, our siblings in Christ at Trinity Lutheran Lakewood as they prepare for Holy Closure.

**For those celebrating their birthday:**

TJ Lanter (Apr 19)

**For those celebrating their baptism:**

Edith Young (Apr 17), Char Mattson (Apr 22)

**Acts Bible Study 7pm via Zoom:** We hear from the book of Acts every Sunday throughout the Season of Easter. Join Pastor Marissa for a bible study via zoom at 7pm on these Wednesdays (4/26, 5/3, 5/10) to explore the book of Acts and connections with Good Soil's new Guiding Principles. Please RSVP to [admin@goodsoillutheran.org](mailto:admin@goodsoillutheran.org) to sign-up and receive the zoom link (zoom link also included in e-news). Grow in faith and relationships with fellow Good Soil members and friends!

**Produce Giveaway Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> with Vicar Scott Wylie and New Covenant Lutheran Church** Last month a group of 8 volunteers went to serve with the people of New Covenant Lutheran in their produce giveaway ministry. We are seeking additional volunteers for this month's event: Saturday April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Come serve in Christ, help with an important ministry in the community and make some new friends along the way!