

Sermons at  
First Lutheran Church (ELCA)  
Reggie Denton, Pastor

John 20:19-31  
April 27, 2025 (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter, Year B)

Do you feel a little discombobulated? Imagine how the DISCIPLES felt? Out of sorts, inside, outside, upside down! Jesus was dead and in the tomb. And now they've JUST heard from Mary Magdalene that he's ALIVE. They didn't know WHAT to think. They didn't understand what was going on or WHY it was happening. They'd LOCKED themselves in the upper room.

This service is DESIGNED to give you a sense of how THEY felt that first Easter. Everything is all backwards and upside down. Maybe you've sort of locked YOURSELF up too.

But LOCKED DOORS can't keep JESUS out. "Jesus came and stood among them and," it SAYS, "the disciples REJOICED when they saw the Lord."

You see, JOY is what the CHURCH is supposed to LOOK like. You see it again and again in scripture. Jesus loves a good PARTY! He performed His first miracle at a wedding reception in Cana, turning water into wine. In the parable of the Prodigal Son, Jesus tells us that the overjoyed father threw a big party for his returning son. "We are going to have a feast, a celebration," the father declared, "because this son of mine was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found" (Luke 15:23-24).

I think that's one of the reasons the church grew so FAST in those first few centuries. The church was a JOYFUL place, and people wanted to be PART of a community like that.

Joy brings LAUGHTER, especially when it follows the RELEASE of a BURDEN. Ecc 3(:4) says, "There is a time to weep AND a time to laugh, a time to mourn AND a time to dance." Jesus said, "Blessed are you who weep now, for you WILL laugh" (Luke 6:21). So, considering the LOSS the DISCIPLES had experienced, I imagine there was A LOT of laughter in that upper room after Jesus appeared to them.

So today we celebrate Holy Humor Sunday. Jesus has the last laugh over death, so today we're going to SHARE some laughter – at least I HOPE so. I have been collecting bulletin bloopers for years, but these are all newer ones that I saw for the first time this week. Today I want to share some of them with you, a top 20 list to be exact. With so much happening in the service today, I need to make this a little shorter than usual, so today's list is just the ones about music in the church. I don't have I know you will be good Lutherans and smile as loudly as you can.

Now we've had some excellent office workers here at First Lutheran, so you know we've NEVER had a bulletin blooper here, but these are ACTUAL bloopers from OTHER churches.

*The first place you notice bloopers is in the service itself.*

*Our opening:*

1. Hymn: "I Love Thee My FORD."

*The hymn of the day:*

2. "WISE Up, O Men of God".
3. After communion, we will sing "Crown Him With Many CROWS."

*And from right here at First Lutheran of Aitkin: The Christmas Hymn:*

4. "Away in a MANAGER."

*Sometimes, it just confusing directions in the bulletin.*

5. Visitors are asked to SING their names at the church entrance.

*I think it meant sign.*

6. Please SIGH during offering.

*I think it meant SING.*

7. The third verse of "Blessed Assurance" will be sung without musical ACCOMPLISHMENT.

8. The audience is asked to remain seated until the end of the RECESSION.

*Hey, isn't the service supposed to be only an hour? That's what I've HEARD.*

9. If you need to HEAVE during the Postlude, please do so quietly.

*Special music is often the victim of the blooper.*

10. At the church meeting held at the home of Mrs. Marsha Crutchfield last evening. Mrs. Crutchfield and Mrs. Rankin sang a duet, The LORD KNOWS WHY.

*Sometimes these are CONCERNING.*

11. The concert held in Fellowship Hall was a great success. Special thanks are due to the minister's daughter, who labored the whole evening at the piano, which as usual FELL upon her.

*Sounds painful. Wait, "AS USUAL"?*

12. Wednesday the Ladies' Liturgy Group will meet. Mrs. Johnson will sing, "Put Me in My Little Bed" accompanied by the Pastor.

*That pastor better be MR. Johnson.*

*Sometimes it's the choir that catches it.*

13. A song fest was HELL at the Methodist church Wednesday.

14. The 'Over 60s Choir' will be disbanded for the summer with the THANKS of the ENTIRE CHURCH.

15. The choir will meet at the Larsen house for fun and sinning.

*What kind of choir is this?*

16. Today's Sermon: How Much Can a Man Drink? with hymns from a FULL choir.

*But sometimes the HYMN CHOICES almost feel INTENTIONAL.*

17. Preacher: The Rev. Horace Blodgett - Hymn 47: "Hark! an AWFUL voice is sounding"

18. The sermon this morning: 'Contemporary Issues #3 - Euthanasia.' The closing song: 'Take My Life.

19. Stewardship Offertory: "Jesus Paid It All"

20. We received word of sudden passing of Rev. Smith this morning during the worship service. Now let's sing "PRAISE GOD from Whom All Blessings Flow."

*Come on, Rev. Smith couldn't have been that bad.*

*And one bonus. After all those bloopers:*

21. The church office will be closed Monday. Halleluia. Halleluia.

So remember, you don't stop laughing because you grow old; you grow OLD because you STOP LAUGHING. So DON'T stop laughing. Laughter is a GIFT from GOD. Amen.