

April 3, 2016

First Sunday of Easter

FIRST LESSON Acts 5:27-32

When they had brought [the apostles,] they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, 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." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

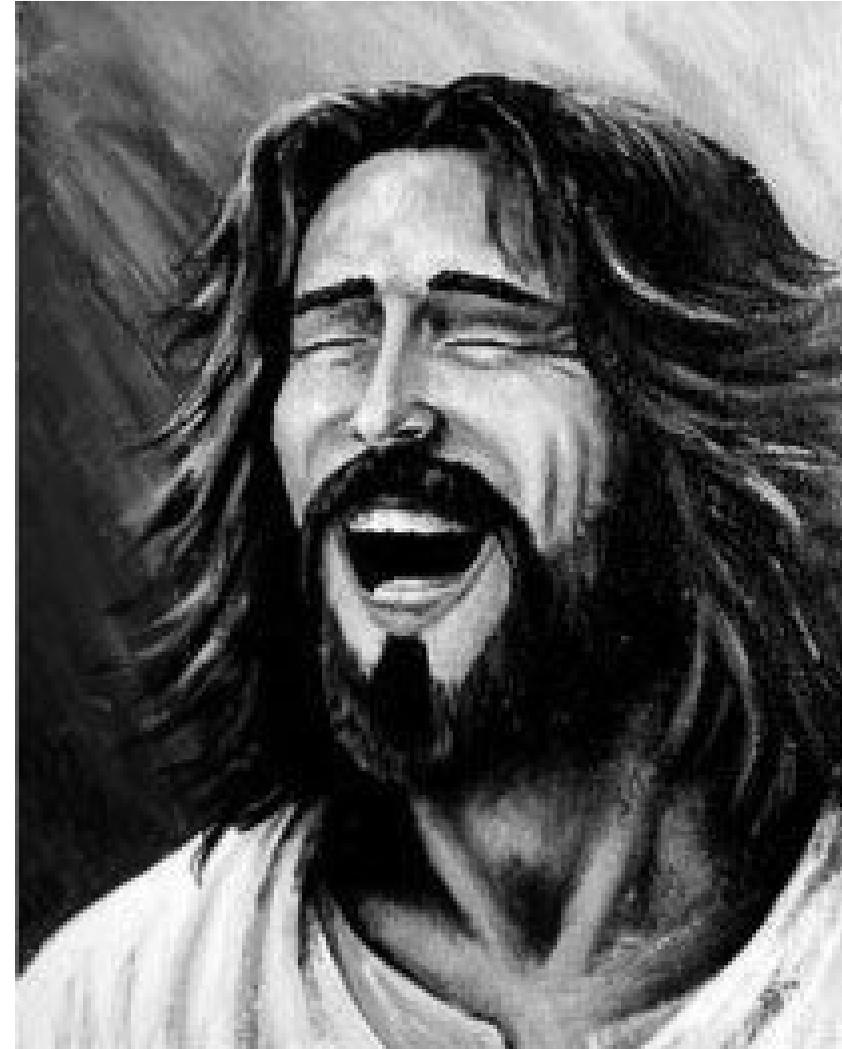
SECOND LESSON Revelation 1:4-8

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, 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, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. 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. "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

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." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 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." 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." 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." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" 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." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. 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.

First Sunday of Easter



Holy Humor Sunday
April 3, 2016

Join Us for Fellowship and Refreshments in the narthex following worship. Serving today are the families of Sophia & Jared Kuehl and Cole Mahler.

Altar Flowers are given in celebration of Gert Larson 100th birthday.

Known Hospitalized: Harlan Ernst at Lake Region Hospital.

Flowers by the Pulpit today are in celebration of Gert Larson's 100th birthday on April 4th from her "Sarah Circle" friends.

Sympathy to the family of Agnes Jorgenson whose funeral will be here on Thursday. Sympathy to the family of Jeanette Pattinson whose funeral was held here last Friday.

Visitors! If you didn't get a "Visitors Bag" when you came in this morning please pick one up on your way out after worship. You'll find them in a basket located on the small table on the ramp coming up from the narthex into the sanctuary.

Large Print Edition of the order of worship, the lessons, and the hymns for today are available. If you would like copies for worship, please ask an usher.



CHURCH SOFTBALL! If you are between the ages of 14-100 sign up today to play on First Lutheran's softball team on Monday nights this year! Both male and female players welcome! Sign-up sheets are at the Info Counter ...

NEW MEMBER COMMUNITY begins next Sunday, April 10th...with Pastor Saul, Pastor Jennifer and the Membership committee from 4-6 pm in the narthex. (We will also meet on April 24th & May 1st) Childcare available. New members will be received during worship on May 15th (At the 8:30 a.m. service).

Over the next few weeks we will be spotlighting our high school seniors as Bible bearers, cantors, and readers. If you see them afterwards please take a moment to greet them and wish them luck on the next steps in their lives.

WOW Event: "Women of the Word" is having an event, "Coffee With Friends" on Sunday, April 24th at 2 p.m. Our speaker, Jan Smith, shares her purse collection to tell Biblical stories! Sign-up in the Narthex!

Senior Pastor:	Saul Stensvaag
Associate Pastor:	Jennifer Rose
Visitation Pastor:	Stan Satre
Sunday School Superintendent:	Cindy Larson
Council President:	Elizabeth Abrahams
Organist:	Keith Melberg
Hosanna Handbell Director:	Linda Mellon
Sacristans:	8:30-Mark & Susan Hermes 11:00-Carolyn Sund
Greeters:	8:30-Mike & Dawn Knudson 11- Gregg & Mindy Kollman
Bible Bearer:	8:30-Teresa Shannon 11-Dalton Mouritsen
Acolytes:	8:30-Olivia Becker, Lilly Stumbo 11-Madeline Trosvig, Jacob Spangler
Communion Assistants:	8:30-Brian & Madisen Becker, Ann Rotto 11-Tom & Jane Willett, Carolyn Sund
Lectors:	8:30- Annie Trosvig 11- Steve Guttormson
P.A. Operator:	8:30-Margaret Ness-Ludwig 11-Bud Mellon

***Gospel Acclamation and Procession**

(Please turn as the Gospel Procession goes by.)



(Congregational response spoken after Gospel is announced: **Glory to you, O Lord.**)

***Gospel**

John 20:19-31

The unprecedented events of the day of resurrection continue as the risen Jesus appears to his fearful disciples. A week later, after Thomas worships Jesus, Jesus pronounces that the blessings of the resurrection are also for those who "have not seen and yet believe."

(Congregational response spoken after Gospel is read: **Praise to you, O Christ**)

Sermon

Easter Joy

Pastor Jennifer

Hymn of the Day

Give us to laughter

(Sung to the tune of *Be Thou My Vision*)

- 1 Give us to laughter, O Source of our life.
Laughter can banish so much of our strife.
Laughter and love give us wholeness and health.
Laughter and love are the coin of true wealth.
- 2 Give us to laughter as sign of deep joy;
let us in laughing find Christian employ,
joining with stars and with bright northern lights,
laughing and praising and sharing delights.
- 3 Why do we worry that we will lose face?
Why act like king for the whole human race?
Often in family, and often with friend,
laughing at pride causes anguish to end.
- 4 Even in sorrow and hours of grief,
laughter with tears brings most healing relief.
God, give us laughter, and God, give us peace,
joys of your presence among us increase.

(Children come forward on last verse)

Children's Event

Pastor Jennifer

***Nicene Creed**

ELW Page 104

***Prayers of the Church**

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus,
and for all people according to their needs.

P ... Lord, in your mercy, or ... Let us pray to the Lord.

C hear our prayer. Lord, have mercy.

***The PEACE is shared**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

The Offering

I've Got the Joy Down In My Heart

George W. Cooke

Hosanna Handbells

V. 1 I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart

V. 2 I've got the peace that passes understanding down in my heart

V. 3 I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus, down in my heart

V. 4 I've Got the wonderful Love of my Blessed Redeemer way down in the depths of my heart

***The Offertory**

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.

***The Great Thanksgiving
Words of Institution**

ELW p.144

The 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

Distribution of Holy Communion

Following an ancient tradition, we will stand at the railing during the Easter season when receiving communion

Hymns during Communion:

ELW 482, 385

***Post Communion Blessing**

***Post Communion Hymn**

Joy to the World

ELW 267 (V. 1 & 4)

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Let earth receive her king;

let ev'ry heart prepare him room

and heav'n and nature sing,

and heav'n and nature sing,

and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

4 He rules the world with truth and grace

and makes the nations prove

the glories of his righteousness

and wonders of his love,

and wonders of his love,

and wonders, wonders of his love.

***Prayer & Benediction**

***Dismissal**

P Go in peace. Share the joy of Easter.

C Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

*denotes when to stand

It's with great joy that we welcome to the Lord's Table the following who completed instruction with Pastor Saul & Pastor Jennifer:
Miah Schmidt
Yana Prischmann

OFFERING UPDATE	Budgeted	Actual(3-1 to 3-21)	Difference
March as of 3-28-2016	\$ 39,939.00	\$ 49,277.21	\$9,338.21
Year to date	\$ 119,793.00	\$ 107,446.60	-\$12,346.40



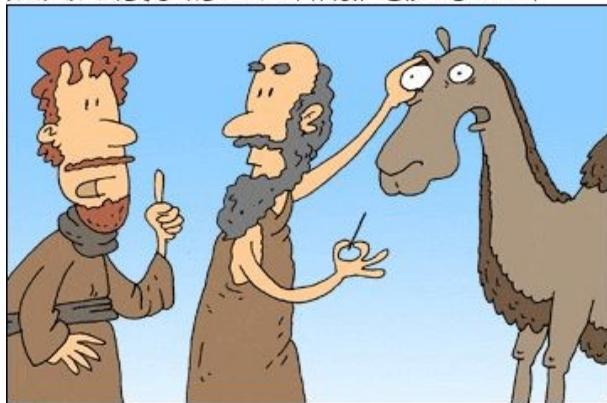
Thanks to Alex Arguelles 03-25-2011

EVERYBODY ELSE MERELY TALKS ABOUT SURVEYING THE WONDROUS CROSS ... HE ACTUALLY DID IT



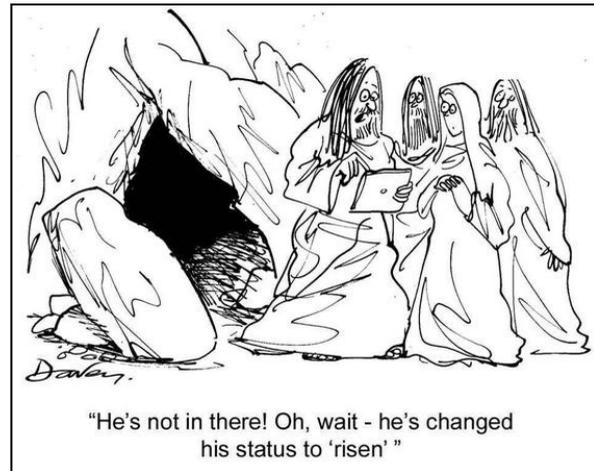
04-13-2012

FYI: THERE'S A TOOOOOOON OF PEOPLE DOWN THERE THANKING YOU THAT IT IS FRIDAY



(See Mark 10:25) 01-10-2011

BEFORE YOU TRY, I SHOULD LET YOU KNOW THAT IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE A CAMEL THROUGH THE EYE OF A NEEDLE



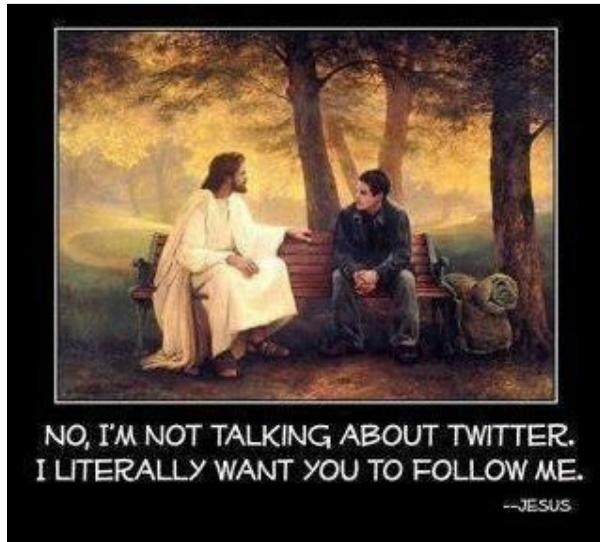
"He's not in there! Oh, wait - he's changed his status to 'risen!'"



THE ORIGINAL ROCK

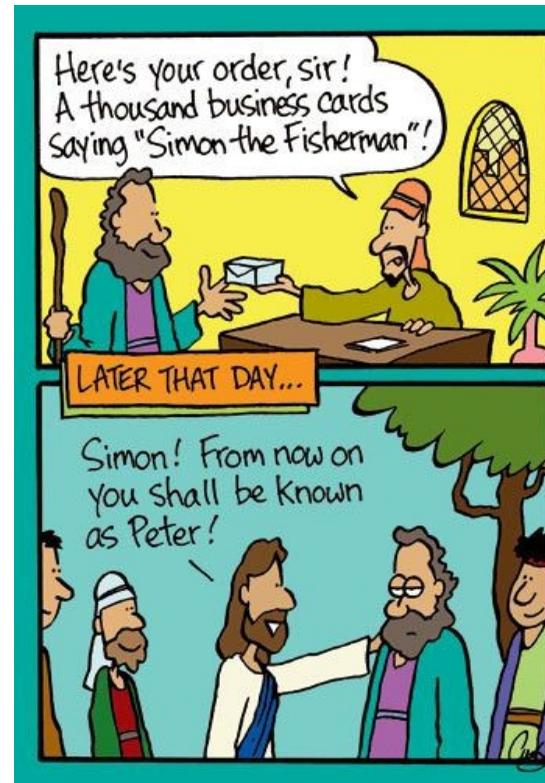


...AND ROLL



NO, I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT TWITTER. I LITERALLY WANT YOU TO FOLLOW ME.

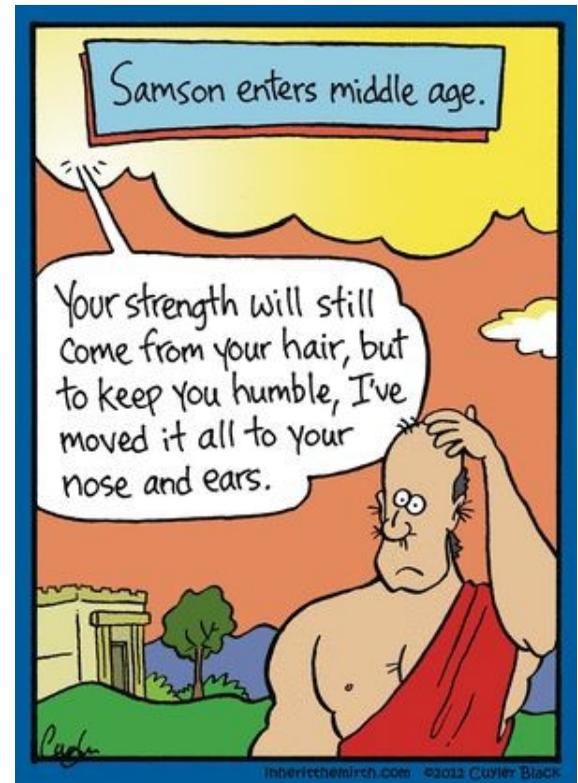
--JESUS



Here's your order, sir! A thousand business cards saying "Simon the Fisherman"!

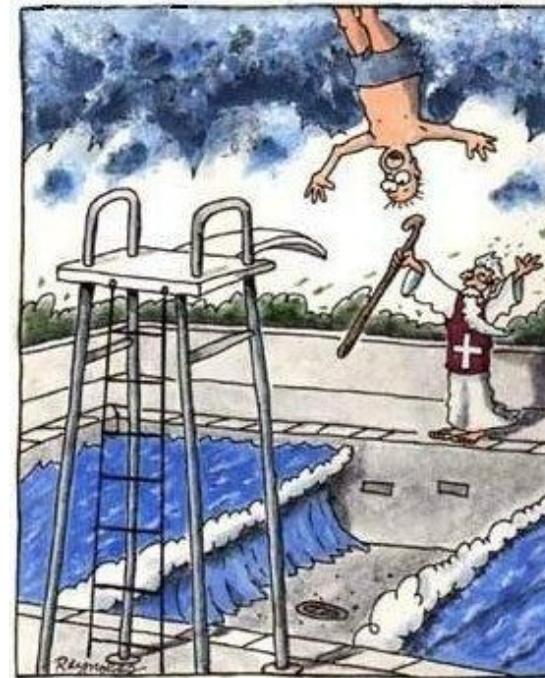
LATER THAT DAY...

Simon! From now on you shall be known as Peter!

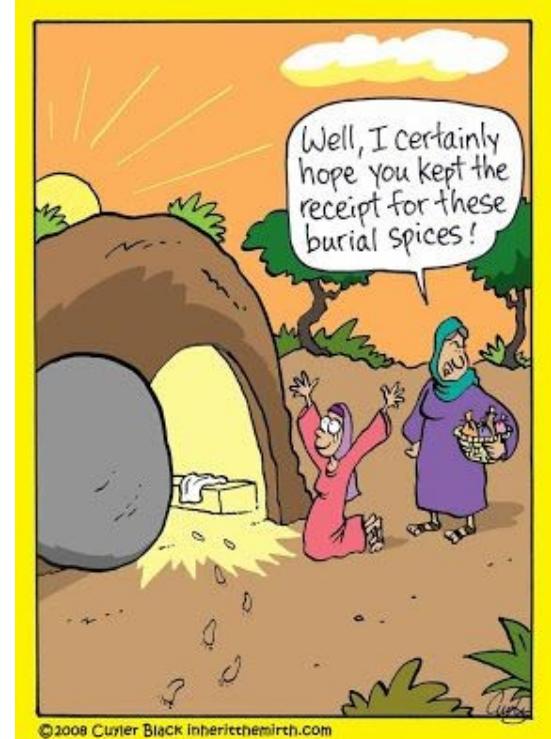


Samson enters middle age.

Your strength will still come from your hair, but to keep you humble, I've moved it all to your nose and ears.



Moses' first and last day as a lifeguard.



Well, I certainly hope you kept the receipt for these burial spices!