

SERMON TITLE: "Holy Humor"
SERMON TEXT: Luke 24:13-35
PREACHER: Rev. Kim James
OCCASION: April 7, 2024, (the Sunday after Easter)

INTRODUCTION

If you worshiped with us last Sunday, you heard me say that there's a tradition in some Christian circles to dedicate the Sunday after Easter to "Holy Humor." The idea is that, on Easter, God played the world's greatest joke on everyone. The women and men who went to the tomb early that morning expected to find the tomb sealed with a stone and Jesus' body inside. Instead, God surprised everyone by rolling away the stone and raising Jesus from the dead. What was expected to be a very sad experience turned into a joyful one. Just like the developing surprise for the two disciples in the Road-to-Emmaus story, it took some time to move from the sadness of grief to boisterous celebration of new life. But laughter would return once again. Like the songwriter expressed to God in Psalm 30:11, "You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy."

So, this morning, in honor of this turn of events, this wonderful surprise, and this tradition of God's Easter joke, we are going to have some fun this morning. As we all know, laughter is good medicine, and so we are going to have a good laugh today with some holy humor.

Normally, I try to prepare sermons that are original to me. But today, I'll confess that I got all these jokes off the internet. This first batch that has to do with Easter eggs and Easter bunnies comes from an online magazine called Southern Living. They think *every bunny will laugh out loud at these Easter jokes and puns.*

1—EASTER EGG JOKES

- Why did the Easter egg hide? *Because he was a little chicken.*
- What do you call a mischievous Easter egg? *A practical yolker.*
- What do you call a tired out Easter egg? *Eggs-austed.*

- What do you call an Easter egg from outer space? *Egg-stra terrestrial*
- How many Easter eggs can you put in an empty basket? *Only one—after that it's not empty anymore!*
- Why do Easter eggs go to school? *To get egg-ducated.*
- What did the egg say when the Easter Bunny told a joke? *"You crack me up."*
- What stories do Easter eggs tell their children? *Yolk tales*
- What do you call an unconventional Easter egg? *Egg-centric*
- What do you call naughty Easter eggs? *Deviled eggs*
- What do you need if your chocolate eggs mysteriously disappear? *An eggs-planation!*
- Therapist: What's been up lately? Chocolate bunny: I don't know Doc, I just feel so hollow inside.
- How do dinosaurs celebrate Easter? *They don't. They're eggs-tinct.*

2—EASTER BUNNY JOKES

- One Easter, a father was teaching his son to drive when out of nowhere a rabbit jumped on the road. Slamming on the brakes, the son said, "I nearly ruined Easter! I almost ran over the Easter Bunny." His father replied, "It's okay son—you missed it by a hare."
- What kind of jewelry does the Easter Bunny wear? *14-carrot gold*
- What happened to the Easter Bunny when he misbehaved at school? *He was egg-spelled!*
- How does the Easter Bunny stay healthy? *Eggs-ercise, specifically hare-obics*
- Where did the Easter Bunny study medicine? *Johns Hopkins*
- Why did the Easter Bunny wear a hat? *Because he was having a bad hare day.*
- Where does the Easter Bunny like to eat breakfast? *IHOP*
- What is the Easter Bunny's favorite kind of music? *Hip hop*
- How does the Easter Bunny dry off? *With a hare dryer*
- What kind of stories does the Easter Bunny like best? *The ones with hoppy endings*
- How does the Easter Bunny keep his fur in place? *With hare spray*
- Where does the Easter Bunny go when he needs a new tail? *To a re-tail store*
- How does the Easter Bunny travel? *By hare-plane*
- Why did the Easter Bunny have to fire the duck? *Because he kept quacking the eggs!*
- What does the Easter Bunny get for making a basket? *Two points, just like everybunny else!*
- What do the Easter Bunny and Michael Jordan have in common? *They're both famous for stuffing baskets.*
- Where did the Easter Bunny learn how to ski? *On the bunny hill.*
- Why did the Easter Bunny cross the road? *Because the chicken had his eggs!*
- What do you call an Easter Bunny wearing a kilt? *Hopscotch.*
- How did the Easter Bunny get his job? *He had eggs-perience.*
- What did the Easter Bunny say to the carrot? *It's been nice gnawing you.*

(<https://www.southernliving.com/holidays-occasions/easter/easter-jokes>)

3—RELIGIOUS JOKES

Now, if you were wondering why I've been telling jokes that have nothing to do with God or Jesus, here's one you'll like:

When the women went to Jesus' tomb, why was the door open?
What would you expect from someone who was born in a barn?!

The next batch of jokes come from the online Parade Magazine. These bits of holy humor aren't about Easter. But they will test your knowledge of the Bible. Let's see how well you get these jokes.

1. **What did Jonah's family say when he told them everything that had happened on his way to Ninevah?** "Hmm, sounds fishy."
2. **What was Moses' wife, Zippora, known as when she'd throw dinner parties?** "The hostess with the Moses."
5. **Which Bible character was super-fit?** Absalom.
6. **What did Adam reply when his wife asked which was his favorite holiday?** "It's Christmas, Eve."
7. **What do you call a Bible character who just drove up to the church?** A parking Lot.
8. **What did God's people say when food fell from Heaven?** "Oh man-na!"
9. **What did pirates call Noah's boat?** "The *arrrrrrk*."
11. **Why did Boaz hate lying?** Because he loved *truth*.
12. **How are toddlers and those who attempted to build a tower to Heaven similar?** They all babble.
13. **Why didn't anyone want to fight Goliath?** It seemed like a *giant* ordeal.
15. **What kind of car would Jesus drive?** A *Christler*.
16. **Which nursery song would Jesus have heard the most?** "Mary Had a Little Lamb."
17. **Why did Adam and Eve do math every day?** They were told to be fruitful and multiply.
19. **What did Daniel tell his real estate agent?** "I'd prefer a house with no den."
20. **Who in the Bible knew the most people?** Abraham knew a Lot.
21. **What's a believer's favorite fruit?** Spiritual fruit.
23. **What was loved by Noah and most meat-eaters today?** Ham.
24. **How do you know Pharaoh liked sports?** He had a court.
26. **Which Bible character was the best musician?** Samson—he brought down the house.
27. **Who in the Bible had the greatest business plans?** The prophets.
28. **Which book of the major prophets is the easiest to understand?** *Ezekiel*.
29. **Which minor prophet is well-known thanks to cookies?** Famous Amos.
30. **What do you call a prophet who's also a chef?** *Habakkuk*.
31. **What did Adam say to Eve when handing her something to wear?** "Take it or leaf it."
32. **When someone needed a boat made, what did the people in town say?** "We Noah guy."
37. **What size was the lumber that was used to build the ark?** 2x2.

Ok, and now from the same Parade.com article, here are some additional jokes that have to do with Christians today.

35. **What did the lawyer ask when someone started talking about God's will?** "Was it notarized?"
40. **How do pastors like their orange juice?** With *pulpit*.
18. **How do you know that atoms are Catholic?** They have mass.

42. **On what types of boats do believers want to travel?** *Discipleship and worship.*

(<https://parade.com/1196835/kelseypelzer/christian-jokes/>)

CONCLUSION

In conclusion to this sermon on Holy Humor, and in honor of the baked potato lunch we're going to have after worship, I have one more story. This comes from a website called MakeItClearNow.org.

In a public school class about world religions, a teacher asked her students to bring a symbol of their family's faith to class.

The next day, she asked each student to come forward and share the symbol with the class.

The 1st child said, "I'm Muslim, and this is my prayer rug."

The 2nd child said, "I'm Jewish, and this is my family's menorah."

The 3rd child said, "I'm Roman Catholic, and this is my Mom's rosary."

The 4th child said, "I'm Greek Orthodox, and this is an icon of my patron saint."

The 5th child said, "I'm a [Methodist], and this is my casserole dish."

(<https://www.makeitclearnow.org/relhumor.html>)

Holy humor. God's joke. Our laughter.

Let us pray:

Lord, thank you that our very spiritual and meaningful United Methodist faith allows us to have some fun and to enjoy good food. We accept that pain, suffering, death, and grief are normal parts of human life—and we thank you that you walk with us through those experiences of sadness. But we also celebrate that death doesn't have the final word. We thank you that your light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it. We thank you that, just as you raised Jesus from the dead, you raise smiles out of sorrow, and laughter out of tears. Give us joy in our hearts, as we worship, laugh, pray, and eat in the name of our risen Lord Jesus. Amen.

OFFERING

Because it's offering time, I can't resist telling you one more joke:

This is the story of a pastor who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: "I have good news and bad news.

The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new building program.

The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets." (MakeItClearNow.org)

If you want to lighten your pockets, any loose coins you place in the offering plates this month will go to our United Methodist Pinecliff Camp, near Coalville, Utah. Thanks also to all of you who give faithfully to our church's general operating fund through electronic transfers from your banks, through checks, and through credit cards. One of the things you paid for recently was the solar eclipse glasses that we're giving out to protect eyes and promote our church.