

April 12, 2026

Holy Humor Sunday

“Oh, the Places You’ll Pray”

A Lutheran service in the style and manner of Dr. Seuss
Adapted from liturgy in Sundays and Seasons and by Rev. Allie Scott with a little
help from Claude AI



Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church

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Holy Humor Sunday: "Oh, the Places You'll Pray!"

Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Oh Merciful God—

You were, and you are, and you're still yet to come! You lead us to waters, both quiet and some.

We thank you for rain-drops and dew in the morn, for roaring great waves since the day we were born. We thank you for rivers and lakes we have known—for every last puddle that ever has shown.

Blessed are you! Blessed are you! You guide us to springs of life, all the day through!

Oh Jesus-our faithful and wonderful guide, you walked with us always, right there at our side.

We thank you for dying! We thank you for life! For joining our joy and our struggle and strife.

Blessed are you! Blessed are you! You guide us to springs of life, all the day through!

Oh, Spirit most Holy—you swooped on our head, with oil and with breath and with things you have said.

Break down walls! Break down barriers! Break them all down! Fill us up with your peace, every village and town!

Blessed are you! Blessed are you! You guide us to springs of life, all the day through!

Holy One, we give thanks for the splashing and grace, for making us new ones, and giving us place.

With angels and saints we give honor and praise, forever and ever through all of our days! **Amen!**

Gathering Song: Jesus Wants Me For A Sunbeam

Happily ♩ = 48-54
(Conduct two beats to a measure.)

F C7

1. Je - sus wants me for a sun - beam, To shine for him each
2. Je - sus wants me to be lov - ing And kind to all I

F C7

day: _____ In ev - 'ry way try to please him, At
see, _____ Show - ing how pleas - ant and hap - py His

F Chorus

home, at school, at play. _____ A sun - beam, a
lit - tle one can be. _____

C7 F

sun - beam, Je - sus wants me for a sun - beam. A

C7 F

sun - beam, a sun - beam, I'll be a sun-beam for him. _____

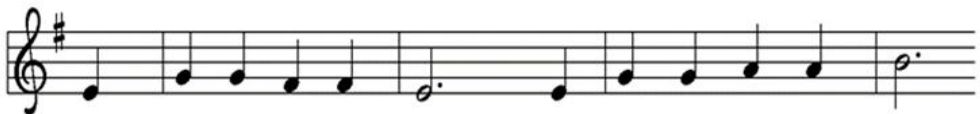
Words: Nellie Talbot
Music: Edwin O. Excell, 1851-1921

Matthew 5:16

Greeting

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ — oh, what grace! It follows you 'round every which place! The love of God — big love, tall love, love that won't end! It bends around corners and comes back again! And the communion of the Spirit, the Holy and True, Be with ALL of you people yes, even with you! **And also with you.**

Kyrie



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

Canticle of Praise



- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

Prayer of the Day

Oh Almighty and Eternal—you're stronger than strong! You're the hope of the doubters all season long. Though our eyes have not seen you, may faith find a way, through the fullness of Christ's great and glorious display. He lives and he reigns with the Spirit and you—one God, then and now and forever. Amen—true!

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

^{14a} Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]: ²² "Fellow 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 ²³ this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴ But God raised him up, having released him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵ 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;

²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover, my flesh will live in hope.

²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades
or let your Holy One experience corruption.

²⁸ You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

²⁹ "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.

³⁰ 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. ³¹ Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

'He was not abandoned to Hades,
nor did his flesh experience corruption.'

³² "This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses."

The Word of the Lord! Oh, the Word! What a Word! It's the best of all words that you've ever heard! **Thanks be to God! Yes, thanks! Oh, thanks! THANKS!** Thanks that go up through the whole of the ranks — From the very small thanks to the big booming kind, Thanks be to God for that Word — never mind! (We mean — thanks be to God, and we mean it, we do!)

Joke Break

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9

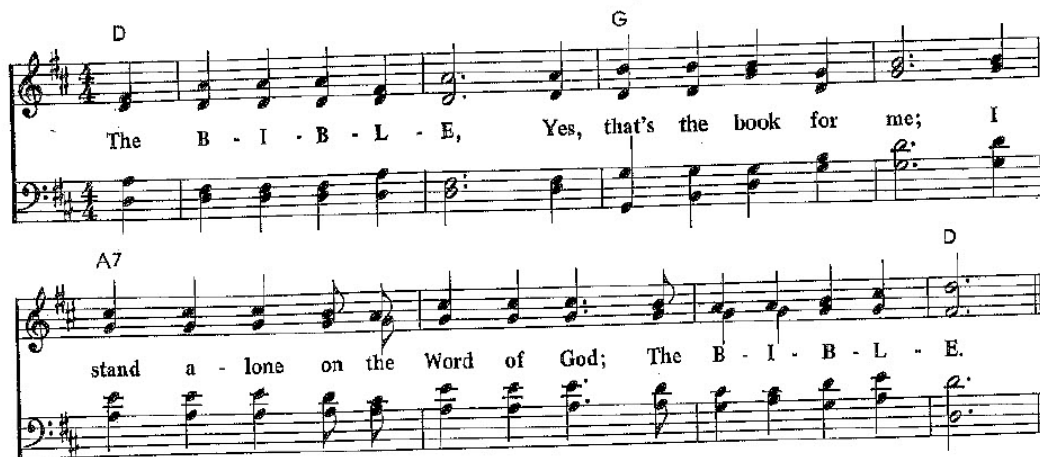
³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead ⁴and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The Word of the Lord! Oh, the Word! What a Word! It's the best of all words that you've ever heard! **Thanks be to God! Yes, thanks! Oh, thanks! THANKS!** Thanks that go up through the whole of the ranks — From the very small thanks to the big booming kind, Thanks be to God for that Word — never mind! (We mean — thanks be to God, and we mean it, we do!)

Gospel Acclamation "The B-I-B-L-E"

THE B-I-B-L-E

56



The B - I - B - L - E, Yes, that's the book for me; I
stand a - lone on the Word of God; The B - I - B - L - E.

Gospel: John 20:19-31

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ 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.”

²⁶ 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.” ²⁷ 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.” ²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹ 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.”

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of the Lord! Oh, the Gospel! THE Gospel! The best news of all!
It's bigger than big and it's tall beyond tall! It's the news that we needed,
the news that we sought — The very best Gospel that ever was brought!
**Thanks be to God! Oh, thanks! Grateful thanks! Thanks that rise up through
the whole of the ranks! For the Gospel is good and the Gospel is great,
And the thanks that we give it can never be late! Thanks be to God — and
we mean it, it's true — For the Gospel of the Lord is for me and for you!**

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: Jesus Loves Me!



1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;
2 Je - sus loves me! he who died heav - en's gates to o - pen wide;
3 Je - sus loves me! he will stay close be - side me all the way;



lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.
he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.
when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high.

Refrain



Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,



yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820–1915, alt.

Music: JESUS LOVES ME, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in one God—just one, that's the count—The Father Almighty, from whom blessings mount. Who made all the heavens and all of the death, the seen and unseen things—all have their worth.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the one Son, begotten of God before ages begun. God from God, Light from Light, very God—this is true! Not made, but begotten—and he loves me and you.

We believe in the Spirit, the Lord, the life-giver, who flows from the Father and Son like a river. With Father and Son he is worshiped and praised—he spoke through the prophets and still leaves us dazed.

One holy, apostolic, and catholic church, one baptism for sins—there's no need to search. We look for the rising of all the dead, and life everlasting ahead, it is said. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Trusting in Christ's resurrection to heal and restore, let us pray for this world that needs tending once more.

(A brief silence.)

Almighty God, you breathe life into clay, and call things to exist in a wild sort of way. Breathe your Spirit on us—let our faith be renewed!

Merciful God, receive our prayer (The good kind—imbued!)

Oh Maker of mornings and mountains and moles, your mercies come fresh as hot breakfast rolls. From flowers to atoms—you made them all here!

Merciful God, receive our prayer, loud and clear!

God of peace, where folks fight and they shout and they fuss, please sow seeds of calm in the hullabaloo-us. Strengthen the leaders, the neighbors, the nations!

Merciful God, receive our prayer and our patience.

Healing God, come to those who are frightened and low, who doubt and who suffer wherever they go. Show them your presence! Show them their share!

Merciful God, receive our prayer—be right there.

Giver of joy, let this be of love—not of strife, with deep care for each other throughout all of life. Help us forgive like you do—it's not easy, we know!

Merciful God, receive our prayer as we grow.

Eternal One, we give thanks for the saints who have gone, who were faithful till death and are now carrying on. Inspire us! Bring us to glory some day!

Merciful God, receive our prayer. Hip-hip-hooray!

God of resurrection, use us and these words we pray, to proclaim the good news of new life every day, through Jesus our Savior, who rose from the ground. **Amen.**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always! Through all of your nights and through all of your days! Through the long ones and short ones and middling ones too, The peace of the Lord — it is always with you!

And also with you! Yes, with YOU and with YOU! And with that one back there in the very last pew! The peace that is bigger than worry or fuss — That peace be with you, and with all of us!

Offering

Offering Prayer

Merciful God—**accept what we've brought to this place, our labors, our offerings, our efforts and grace. You've set us a table—a sneak peek of that day, when no one is hungry and no one's away. So nourish us now with the body and blood, that goodness and mercy may come like a flood. In the name of the One who gives all that is good—Amen!**

Great Thanksgiving

May Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

May your hearts be lightened and filled with God's love! **We lift up our hearts and praise God above.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, for God is our Father. **We thank God and praise him—it isn't a bother.**

It is right and good-ful; holy and wonderful; blessed and joyful; to give thanks to you God, Almighty and faithful. For it's you that has given us this worship time, filled with laughter, some holy humor and rhyme. It's you that has shown us your holy love, that you have sent from heaven high up above. And so, with your angels who first sang your song, we proclaim your goodness by singing along:

Holy, Holy, Holy



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



heav'n 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

On the night he was taken, Jesus lifted some bread, he blessed it, and broke it, and here's what he said "Dear friends, this is my body to you that I give. Take it, share it, in you I will live. From now on, whenever, wherever you meet, Remember our time when this bread here you eat." When supper was over, he then took the cup, with praise and thanksgiving he lifted it up: "For the New Covenant, this is my blood; a sign of the Lord's continuing love. For God has forgiven your every mistake, so trust in God's love when of this drink you partake."

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.

Holy Communion



- 1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Post Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ! Oh, what a gift! Oh, what a price that was priced! The body! The blood! Given here, given now, To strengthen and keep you — and here's the big wow:

It keeps you in grace — in his grace, don't you see? That grace-keeping grace that is gracious and free! It strengthens your bones and your heart and your soul, It keeps you and holds you and makes you feel whole!

Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Holy One, **through this meal you have moved right on in, and you're making things new—let the new things begin! Send us out now—to speak peace to the anxious and fretting, to love our dear enemies (hard as that's getting), and to bring your great healing to all of the nations. In Jesus' name—off we go to our stations!**

Blessing

God Almighty—the start and the end of all things, Jesus Christ—with the joy that the resurrection brings, and the Spirit—your advocate, comfort, and peace—bless you right now, and bless you, and never shall cease.

Amen.

Sending Song: I've Got the Joy

1 I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart,
 2 I've got the love of Je - sus, love of Je - sus down in my heart,
 3 I've got the peace that pass - es un - der - stand - ing down in my heart,
 4 I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart,

Down in my heart, down in my heart! I've got the joy, joy, joy,
 Down in my heart, down in my heart! I've got the love of Je - sus, love of
 Down in my heart, down in my heart! I've got the peace that pass - es un - der -
 Down in my heart, down in my heart! I've got the joy, joy, joy,

joy down in my heart, Down in my heart to stay!
 Je - sus down in my heart, Down in my heart to stay!
 stand - ing down in my heart, Down in my heart to stay!
 joy down in my heart, Down in my heart to stay!

Fine

Dismissal

Go in peace! Go in peace, go in peace — it is time, it is time! Go and love! Go and serve! It is glorious and prime! Go to love and to serve the great Lord of us all, Go in peace — go in peace — go in peace down the hall!

Thanks be to God!