



Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
Pastor Terry's Thoughts of the Week

Holy Humor (Hilarity) Sunday

Never heard of it? No wonder. It's an ancient use of the Sunday after Easter. It comes from the belief, the knowledge that the devil has been defeated with the rising of Jesus from the dead. It was – and is – a time for all Christians to be filled with joy, to “clown around” and to remember that our time will come to defeat the devil on his own playground – death.

It may seem to be a silly pastime, but why not? Why not play the fool to show the devil that Jesus' time has come and the day of the devil is over. This is the time when we tell jokes about the devil and when we look to God as our savior and the one who has given us this day as a day of celebration – putting the devil in his place, giving the devil his due.

There are those who have seen Jesus as a clown in the middle of life. He never did what people expected and yet his life showed the truth of life.

I once had a wonderful woman in my congregation who took to Christian clowning. She began – her debut in the congregation – by cart wheeling down the aisle. Fortunately, the people who would have objected the most were her in-laws! She often did children's sermons and taught wonderful truths to the children through clowning.

The day that I think was most telling of what a clown can do, and what Jesus did for us – was the day she pantomimed making bread. There was flour all over the place. She had a very large bowl and when she was through she put the “dough” in an oven – her husband was a great help with props.

Then she quit. She went and sat down and there seemed to be no obvious lesson for that day. We continued with the service. At offering time, she got up from her place, walked over to the oven and after the offering plates

had been received, she took bread from the oven, knelt before the altar and offered it for communion.

That may be a strange way to show what Christ has done for us, but the message got through to the children and to the congregation.

This lady had a marvelous imagination and told stories of Zacchaeus up on the tree being forgiven and many other stories. You have to have a special talent for this, but when that talent exists and is used well, it's wonderful!

Holy Humor Sunday? Actually, Holy Humor week. This week and this Sunday we rejoice with exceeding great joy, not that Christ was born, but that the devil was defeated and Christ reigns in our lives.

Have a wonderful, happy day and do something "clownish". Jesus showed us that we can laugh at the devil, and that's enough to let us be a little giddy.

TMK

-- Week of April 19, 2009