

Pastor Kory's Page

Faith Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, South Dakota
Easter Sunday: The Resurrection of our Lord
April 21, 2019

Flash Mob Joy

I'm fascinated by flash mobs. Have you ever watched or been part of one? If you don't know what a flash mob is, the general idea is that a large group of people suddenly show up out of nowhere and begin singing, playing instruments, dancing, or perhaps all of the above, usually in a public space such as a plaza or shopping mall.

Some of my favorite flash mob videos feature orchestras playing Beethoven's song, "Ode to Joy." The two most popular ones on YouTube were filmed in Sabadell, Spain and Nuremberg, Germany. Actually it's getting hard for me to write this page, because I keep finding more flash mob videos to watch! Let's keep going ...

Imagine you're having lunch on a sunny plaza, just minding your own business. A bassist or violinist begins to play a familiar piece. He is joined by a few more orchestra members. They step forward and immediately join the tune. You begin to recognize the opening melodies of Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture." The strings are joined by woodwinds. A crowd begins to build around this instant orchestra. Suddenly a row of trumpets and trombones begin to peal on a rooftop above the cafe, where just a moment before, you had been quietly having lunch! The plaza is filled with boisterous music!

You didn't see it coming! That's the *point* of a flash mob. The music and theatrics are meant to take the bystanders by surprise – to surprise them with joy and to wrap them up in the thrill of this powerful live music out of nowhere!



Words can't really describe what that experience would be like! My family could tell you that they've seen tears of joy in my eyes just from watching flash mob videos! ☺

The women who followed Jesus and supported His ministry spent a quiet Sabbath in their homes. They were eagerly waiting to venture out to Jesus' tomb on the first day of the week. Because Jesus died just before the beginning of the Sabbath at sundown on Friday, His mourners had to wait until Sunday to pay their respects in person.

As the sky began to brighten that Sunday morning, the women questioned among themselves how they would be able to access the tomb and anoint Jesus' body with burial spices. Coming around the corner and seeing Jesus' tomb, the women were shocked to see that the huge stone had already been slid aside. Who had done it? What happened to the guards? Looking in the tomb, the women were shocked to find only an empty burial cloth, folded on the slab. "While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, '*Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how He told you, while He was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.*'" (Luke 24:4-7)

Confusion turns to joy: "[Mary Magdalene] turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?' Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, 'Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary.' She turned and said to Him ... *Rabboni!* (which means Teacher)." (John 20:14-16)

Flash mob joy begins! They didn't see it coming! Jesus' closest followers didn't think it possible. He's alive, because nothing is impossible with God! After the scourging and nails and spear of His public death on Friday, this Sunday, Jesus is alive for you forevermore! May His Spirit fill you with the joy of knowing that Jesus is Risen and we shall arise!

Peace in Christ,
Pastor Kory Janneke