

"The Last Alleluia until Easter"

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by Becky Enney

Did you ever have a favorite toy and it got broken? And what if you did not tell your parent, but instead you hid that favorite toy somewhere? You felt that you might never play with it again, but you could not throw it away!

And then, 40 days later, your parent might ask about that toy and you admit that it was broken, and you are soooo sad! And what if your parent figured out a way to fix the toy! You might say "Alleluia"!

Alleluia is like saying "Praise the Lord" and "Thank you Jesus"! You would be soooo happy that your toy has been returned to you!

(Place crucifix)

That might be just a tiny bit like when Jesus died on the Cross that first Good Friday. Those who loved Jesus must have been soooo sad that their favorite person in the world, Jesus, was gone from them!

And then that first Easter morning, when Christ seemed to be gone forever, when Jesus was suddenly and amazingly FIXED and RETURNED in a way that you could never have imagined. What if Jesus, whom you thought was broken and dead forever, was now alive again!

You might shout out ALLELUIA, PRAISE THE LORD! In fact, that is exactly what DID happen in the days of that first Easter!

An old tradition from the church a LONG time ago thought it would be a good practice to hide the word ALLELUIA during Lent. They gave up saying or singing the word Alleluia because during Lent, which starts this Wednesday until Easter Day, is a time we remember with sadness, how much we are soooo sad that Jesus died on the cross.



From this Wednesday which is Ash Wednesday, to the day of Easter, April 21 we will never say or sing the word ALLELUIA in worship. This morning is the LAST time we said or sang it here at **Church of Forgiven Sinners**.

That is the name of the church where Pr Ed and Pr Glenn are pastors. **"Church of Forgiven Sinners."**



So, Pastor Ed and Pastor Glenn invited everyone outside after church this morning and they dug a hole in the snow, because all the dirt is covered in SNOW. And in that hole, they buried that word ALLELUIA. Watch!

(bury the white box with the word ALLELUIA under white quilt batting). I will place this little white box under some pretend white snow and place it on the altar to remind us of this ancient practice.



And, as we know, when Easter day finally comes, we will get this ALLELUIA out and sing and say it over and over and over with joy and many thanks to God! Praise the Lord! THE END