

APRIL 2021

O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 15:55-57

Jesus has burst for the from the tomb alive! His body no longer lays in that grave of death and darkness. The sting of death has been overcome by the cross of our Lord and His resurrection. He lives and we are alive in Him. Death doesn't win the day. Jesus *gives us* His Easter victory.

Therefore we are a people who live confident in the resurrection victory. Just as we have been joined to Jesus' death in Holy Baptism we are also joined to His rising (Romans 6). Things are different for us. We have a different outlook, a different way of speaking, a different way viewing the things around us in the world. Death is a defeated enemy whom we no longer are enslaved to. That heavy yoke has been lifted and replaced by the yoke of Christ which is easy and light and gives rest for our souls (Matt. 11:28-30).

The temptation is to think that Christ hasn't won the day. To look around and watch the news and think things are so terrible how could we ever fix them. Yes, we should be on guard and call the evil thing evil but not be so scared as if our Lord has been overpowered in some way. We are not going to fix ourselves but Jesus comes to make all things new. He lives! The victory over sickness and corruption and death has been ratified by His empty tomb and He makes us partakers of that. As St. Paul says, our Lord *gives us the victory*.

The victory is given - handed over - as you saints in Christ receive His risen body and blood from the altar. Again, it is as St. Paul says, *as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes* (1 Corinthians 11:26). We proclaim to the world that His death was the defeat of death and that through this Savior we too will rise - alive.

May the true reality of Jesus' Easter resurrection give you great hope in what our Lord has done. He died for our sins but death could not hold Him. He rose from grave and has opened the gates of life and salvation for us!

*It was a strange and dreadful strife
When life and death contended;
The victory remained with life,
The reign of death was ended.
Holy Scripture plainly saith
That death is swallowed up by death,
Its sting is lost forever.
Alleluia!*

(Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands - LSB 458)



Alleluia! Christ is Risen!
- Pastor Suggitt

LIFE QUOTES

“Death is the one thing no Christian has to do on his or her own. Jesus has already been through suffering and death before us. He knows the way through death and the way back to life, too. Our friends and family cannot go with us—but Jesus can. He will never let go of our hands. And He will bring us back to life with Him because He has promised, and He will never lie.” *Dr. Kari Vo, Lutheran Hour Ministries – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

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