

Redeemer's Christian Connection
April Newsletter



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Pastor's Page



The Word in Song. ”

“With High Delight Let Us Unite” (LSB 483)

One of the characteristics of good hymnody is the rich use of imagery. In this month's hymn, we have jarring and powerful phrases to describe the most jarring and powerful truth of Christianity: Jesus Christ, the true Son of God in human flesh, died to kill death and rose to bestow in us eternal life with Him.

This is an exuberant example of a well-written hymn translated to preserve the vitality and richness of its original text. It compels God's people to witness in song the Christ who set us free, subduing all our enemies and bestowing upon us His victory over death and the grave.

Verse 1

With high delight let us unite in songs of great jubilation.
Ye pure in heart, all bear your part, sing Jesus Christ, our salvation.
To set us free forever, He is ris'n and sends to all earth's ends
Good news to save ev'ry nation.

Notice how in verse 1 this hymn not only says what we should sing, but how: “With high delight.” Also in verse 1, the singers are described as “pure in heart.”

Who are the “pure in heart”? Those who are given faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior. That’s why God, in Psalm 51:10-12 has us pray, “*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me [which is what we deserve because of our sins]. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.*” We need God the Holy Spirit to give us a pure heart—the new heart of faith—through the good news of our salvation through Jesus Christ, and to “uphold” us sinner/saints with a willing spirit that continues to return to God’s Word for comfort and strength.

What is the natural response of a pure heart/a “right spirit,” and the desired fruit? Psalm 51:13, “*Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will return to you.*” All this is included in the first verse of this hymn.

Isaiah 52:9-10 speaks of these same things when it says, “*Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; He has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God*”

Verse 2

True God, He first from death has burst forth into life, all subduing.
His enemy doth vanquished lie; His death has been death’s undoing.
‘And yours shall be like victory o’er death and grave,’
Saith He, who gave His life for us, life renewing.

The second stanza reads like the Creed. We sing of Jesus as “True God,” which is evident in the fact that He “burst” from death, subduing all things, and leaving the tattered remains of death behind.

When it says that “His death has been death’s undoing,” we are reminded of Hebrews 2:14-15, “*Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself [the Son of God in Jesus Christ] likewise partook of the same things, that through death He might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.*”

This was made absolutely clear through Jesus’ resurrection from the dead in His glorified body, which will never die again. St. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 15:20-23 that the resurrected Christ is “*the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at His coming those who belong to Christ.*” This is the Gospel. This is what we proclaim to a world still captive to sin and its death.

Verse 3

Let praises ring; give thanks, and bring to Christ our Lord adoration.
His honor speed by word and deed to ev’ry land, ev’ry nation.
So shall His love give us above, from misery and death set free,
All joy and full consolation.

This final verse speaks of our duty, privilege, and delight to “bring to Christ our Lord adoration.” When we do we “His honor speed by word and deed to every land, every nation.” This good news of God’s love and salvation in Jesus Christ, gives “us above” (in heaven, not necessarily in this life) freedom from all “misery and death,” “all joy and full consolation.”

Our Lord reminds us that in this world we will still experience suffering, as He did. *“A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household”* (Matthew 10:24-25). But in Rev. 7:13–17 God promises His “full consolation.” *“Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?” I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*

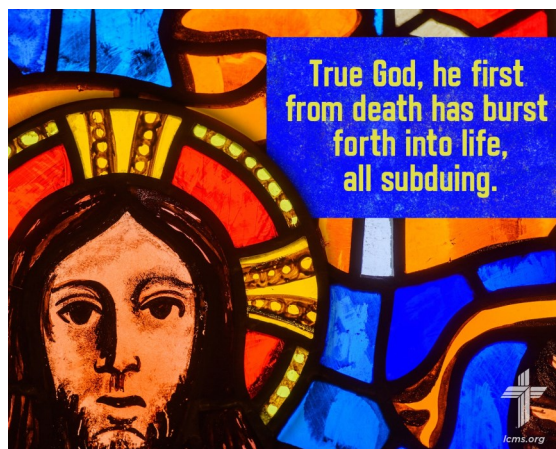
*Therefore they are before the throne of God,
and serve Him day and night in His temple;
and He who sits on the throne will shelter them with His presence.
They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore;
the sun shall not strike them,
nor any scorching heat.
For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd,
and He will guide them to springs of living water,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”*

It is often said that what the Church fails to preach and to sing, she will forget to believe. The translator of this hymn, Martin Franzmann, made the same point by saying, “Theology must sing.” Though Easter is a season of the Church Year, the queen of seasons, it is also the ground and hope of our own resurrection and eternal life. We are constantly reminded that Christ is author and pioneer, Alpha and Omega, who has gone before that we might follow.

In this respect, we are like the children of Israel, bound for the Promised Land that only God can give, but not quite there yet. It is too easy for us to look backward, and for our journey to become an aimless wandering in the wilderness. The resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ, aims us toward the future beyond imagination that Christ has prepared for those who love Him. It also reminds us that the message we share with the world is this Gospel—Jesus Christ crucified for our sins, dead and buried to end death’s reign, and risen to bestow upon us and all believers eternal life in the world to come—paradise.

Easter joy is inexpressible but not unsingable, and the richest imagery of the poet in this hymn helps us sing our hope before the world.

Prayer: O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen (Collect for the Third Sunday of Easter).



Birthdays

Michelle Bachman—April 3rd
 Jenean Hovel—April 4th
 Michelle Clubb—April 11th
 Rachel Oberheu—April 12th
 Gabriel Howell—April 13th
 Antonion della Volpe—April 14th
 Rick Oberheu—April 16th
 Karen Jetley—April 16th
 Catalina della Volpe—April 16th
 Karen Karp—April 19th
 Amber Miller—April 19th
 Barb Nagoda—April 20th
 Ron Cumins—April 20th
 John Vastag—April 22nd
 Renee` Beck—April 23rd
 Ed Morris—April 25th
 Lisa Althaus—April 25th
 Cornelia Reynolds—April 26th
 Michelle Scarbrough—April 26th
 Morgan Andasola—April 26th
 Sharon Althaus—April 28th
 Paula Chick—April 28th



Baptismal Birthdays

Rebecca Cumins
 Lowell Kindschy
 Jeanne Nelson
 Ken Weber—April 3rd
 Andrea Van Fossan—April 7th
 Teagan Scarbrough—April 8th
 Jackie Robirds—April 10th
 Elias Candelaria-Schumock—April 11th
 Karen Richardson—April 12th
 Sherry McIntosh—April 15th
 Gabriel Howell—April 15th
 Phillip Dwyer—April 25th
 Jenean Hovel—April 27th
 Macy Weber—April 30th
 Emmett Weber—April 30th



Wedding Anniversaries

Frank and Vicki Candelaria—April 27th

THE LORD'S MINISTRY

Redeemer Lutherans attendance figures and financial blessings that were given for the month of March to further maintain the Lord's ministry.

Date	Attendance	Communicants	Offerings Received	Needed Operating
			Gen./Designated Funds	Budget
3-3-2024	68	50	\$2,004.25/\$202.00	\$4,455.06
3-6-2024	17		\$780.00/\$1,424.00	
3-10-2024	83	67	\$3,240.00/\$500.00	\$4,455.06
3-17-2024	73	63	\$2,162.50/\$352.00	\$4,455.06
3-20-2024	21		\$565.00/\$515.00	
3-24-2024	93	74	\$3,465.00/\$1,045.00	\$4,455.06

“Life Thoughts In The Church Year”

April 7 – Easter II – How remarkable that our Lord’s beloved Apostle St. John describes the Gospel of Jesus Christ as “the Word of Life” (1 John 1:2). He also declares all believers qualify as “little children” (2:1). And he proclaims that God has given His Son to redeem “the whole world” – every member of the human race, no matter what age, appearance, or ability. Even personal choice or political controversy can’t keep us quiet about it!

April 14 – Easter III – With St. Peter and the Pentecost Apostles, we confess Jesus Christ alone as “Author of life” (Acts 3:15). This means no one else has right or responsibility to decide what kind of life a neighbor may have or when any human life ought to end. Rather, we rejoice to repeat the message of repentance and forgiveness (Luke 24:47) for every sinner and every sin – abortion and assisted suicide included.

April 21 – Easter IV – The Gracious Savior brings a delightful clarity to life-and-death issues and situations. Killing and destroying belongs entirely to the work of the devil (John 10:11). The people of God advocate and extend abundant, everlasting life to the Lord’s every last little lamb. Unto all our neighbors, with both our voice and our goods (1 John 3:17), may we “come that they may have life and have it abundantly!”

April 28 – Easter V – It is anxiety and fright that drive folks to pursue abortion, physician-assisted suicide, and other measures that view death as a solution. Fear likewise bullies the sanctity of life into silence. But the Lord’s perfect love puts all fear to flight (1 John 4:18). In surprise pregnancy and terminal diagnosis, we and our neighbors need not independence and empowerment but the presence, promises, and compassion of the Father Almighty.

