

THURSDAY, APRIL 23



I Corinthians 15:54–57 ♦ Psalm 92:1–9

O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?

I Corinthians 15:55

Taunting Death

Death taunts us. It hounds us. It lurks in the shadows and whispers fear. It roars like a lion. It mocks us. Every time something doesn't work right, doesn't feel right, doesn't heal right . . . death reminds us that our bodies are wearing out. That it's just a matter of time.

It's time we mock death.

This whole Easter season, that's what we've been doing. Have you noticed how many Easter hymns taunt death?

"O, where is your sting, death? We fear you no more" (*LSB* 480:4).

This is nothing new. The Bible reading quotes a hymn of the Early Church.

"Oh, death, oh deaaaaath? Have you lost your sting? Oh, who took it? I'll tell you who took it: JESUS!"

"Deaaaaath, hey, death. Where is your victory? Is it all gone? Yeah, that's right, it is."

You, oh death, can rage and threaten, but we know the whole story. Jesus has defeated you, and we are going to live forever. And ever. And ever and ever and ever . . .

Go ahead. We're Easter people, and Easter hymns revel in the victory that Jesus has won over our enemies. The next time death tries to strike fear in your heart, point to the empty tomb. Death is no more.

*Redeemer, You have defeated death and robbed it of its sting.
We rejoice in You! Amen.*