

He is risen! **He is risen indeed, Alleluia!**

Dear Fellow Redeemed, the Passover was over! The Lord had redeemed the Sons of Israel.

Just as the Lord said he would, Pharaoh booted them out of Egypt.

But Pharaoh quickly regretted his decision and mustered his world-class army and chariots to pursue them to bring them back.

Imagine the Israelites' fear when they saw the dust clouds kicked up as the army marched on them.

Nothing but water ahead of them and Pharaoh and his army behind them.

The people cried out to Moses, **"Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness?"** Ex. 14:11

That is a pretty cheeky complaint against the man that the Lord used to bring the 10 plagues.

But the Lord was patient with them; as a nation, they were in the infancy of their faith yet.

He wanted to show them that 10 plagues are not the extent of His power to save.

And so Moses directs the people, **"Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord...**

**The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent."** Ex. 14:13-14

And with that, the Lord moved His presence in the pillar of cloud and fire to go between the Israelites and their enemies and opened up the sea with a dry path for Israel to safely walk through.

The Lord then hardened the heart of Pharaoh and his army, to pursue Israel into the sea.

After all the Israelites had crossed through, the Lord brought the waters back, and Egypt drowned.

The next morning, Moses led the Israelites in singing this song of thankfulness:

*As follows in Jesus' name:*

Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the Lord, saying,

"I will sing to the Lord, for He has triumphed gloriously;

the horse and his rider He has thrown into the sea.

<sup>2</sup> The Lord is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation;

this is my God, and I will praise Him, my father's God, and I will exalt Him.

<sup>3</sup> The Lord is a man of war; the Lord is His name. ...

<sup>13</sup> "You have led in Your steadfast love the people whom You have redeemed;

you have guided them by Your strength to Your holy abode. ...

<sup>16</sup> Terror and dread fall upon [Israel's enemies];

because of the greatness of Your arm, they are still as a stone,

till Your people, O Lord, pass by, till the people pass by whom You have purchased. ...

<sup>17</sup> You will bring them in and plant them on Your own mountain,

the place, O Lord, which You have made for Your abode,

the sanctuary, O Lord, which Your hands have established.

<sup>18</sup> The Lord will reign forever and ever." (ESV)

*This is Your Word, heavenly Father; **sanctify us in the truth, Your Word is Truth.** Amen.* (John 17:17)

It is the natural expression of the trusting and thankful Church to sing.

We have already sung, so early this morning, two hymns of praise for Jesus' resurrection.

But note that our hymns of praise aren't only words of praise;

They are filled with words of action:

*"Christ has broken death's strong chain..."*

*"He who gave for us His life... lives in glory... [and] pleads for us and hears our cry..."* ELH #344

*"Thus my Jesus from the grave... rose triumphant Easter morning..."*

*"Thou has conquered in the strife... and has opened Paradise..."*

*"Unto life Thou shalt arouse me By Thy resurrection's power..."* ELH #354

We take our cue from the Christians who lived long before us, like Moses, who by divine inspiration, penned and sang this hymn of praise.

Notice the actions:

**"He has triumphed gloriously, the horse and his rider He has thrown into the sea." ...**

**"You have led in Your steadfast love the people whom You have redeemed;"**

**"You have guided them by Your strength to Your holy abode. ..."**

**"You will bring them in and plant them on Your own mountain"**

Notice: who is the One performing these actions in the songs?

Was it the Israelites throwing the horse and rider into the sea?

Was it the people that redeemed themselves?

Was it the people who would guide, bring, and plant themselves in God's holy abode?

Did you *break death's strong chain...* or *give up your life...* or did you *rise...* [and] *conquer*?

So while we are singing these hymns, the focus is not upon us or our sacrifice of praise,

but upon the Lord who has already saved us by His death on the cross,

and who *lives triumphant from the grave; He lives eternally to save...*

*He lives to comfort me when faint; He lives to hear my soul's complaint.* ELH 351:2, 4

He lives to continue His saving actions by **pleading** for us and **guiding & planting us in His abode.**

Notice, He is not a "one hit wonder;" He didn't stop with the 10 plagues.

He didn't tell the Israelites, "Well, I got you this far... you have to do the rest."

In fact, He was the one who hardened Pharaoh's heart to pursue the Israelites.

He was the one who brought it about that Israel would be caught between the water and the army.

?Why would He do such a thing? Such a thing that caused Israel to fear?

So that He might show them His complete deliverance from their enemies.

Pharaoh would never again be a threat to them.

So that they might learn to trust Him, in life and in death.

Neither did He stop with the salvation at the Red Sea

where He baptized the people into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, as St. Paul says. 1Cor.10:2

He continued to guide and provide for them the next 40 years...

and then He brought them into the Promised rest miraculously crossing over the Jordan River.

And neither has He stopped acting to save His people.

As we stand here in this cemetery, we are surrounded by hundreds of people whom the Lord has saved through all kinds of worldly problems.

Think for a moment, why are they here? It's because their bodies are dead.

some by plague or illness, some in horrific crashes, some by cancer, some of old age...

some unborn, some in their early years, some in the so-called "prime of their life",

some after many, many years of earthly toil and loneliness...

Yet we have given them a Christian burial.

How is this possible, that they would remain faithful, even as they approached their deaths?  
Consider Moses' words to the Israelites: **Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord...**  
**The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.**

They did not trust in themselves to save them, but they looked for the salvation of the Lord.

They went through the water, baptized into Christ by water and the Spirit.

They listened to the prophets and apostles who all pointed to Jesus,

**the Redeemer who lives and will stand upon the earth, whom we shall see with our own eyes,  
even after our flesh has been destroyed.** Job 19:25

They trusted in the One whose steadfast love had redeemed them.

God was their strength and had become their salvation... not they, themselves.

And when they passed through death, Satan and Death were as still as a stone

till the people whom God had purchased had passed by.

For by His death & resurrection the Lord has triumphed gloriously,  
death and Satan He has thrown into the sea...

The world is still full of trouble. We still have plagues and school shootings.

We have government corruption, inflation, and wars and rumors of wars.

We still have natural disasters, accidents, cancer, unexplained and sudden deaths.

Why? Why does He still orchestrate things like these? *Were there no graves in Egypt?*

Do you want to return to the comfort of fearing those things that you feared before Christ saved you,  
as the children of Israel wanted to return to the comfort of their Egyptian slavery?

Or is the Lord also teaching us to trust in Him in life and in death?

What would these saints, who have already gone through the worst that death can do, tell you?

Take a moment and listen...

Did you hear that? They are practicing what they are preaching to you.

It is the same as Moses said to the Israelites:

**Fear not... The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.**

This, of course, is just to silence your faithless fears.

As the Lord delivered these from all evil, so He does for you.

But then, when you have seen your salvation...

when you have received the body and blood of your crucified and risen Savior,

the medicine for immortality,

do not be silent, but join the saints in their song. **The Lord is your strength and your song.**

Join them in **praising** and **exalting** Him who has acted ... and still acts to save you.

Then, when you have crossed over & have found yourself in the eternal rest on the Lord's mountain,  
in the sanctuary that the Lord's hands established, then your songs of praise will never end.

He is risen! **He is risen indeed, Alleluia!**

*Soli Deo Gloria*