

“JESUS LIVES! THE VICTORY’S WON!”

“God raised Him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for Him to be held by it.”

Acts 2:24

“Snatching Victory out of the Jaws of Defeat.” That phrase captivates nicely what we, as humans, perceive concerning Christ’s death and resurrection. His death appears to us as His defeat, and His resurrection as His victory. But, as another saying goes: *“Appearances Can be Deceiving.”*

While Christ’s death on the cross can have the *appearance* of being a defeat, it is quite the opposite. Christ’s death, and His resurrection are both victories. Even as He hung on the cross, bruised, pierced and bleeding, Jesus was in full control of the situation. He did not die until He was ready to die; and He would not die until your sins, and the sins of the whole world were fully atoned for by Him. In the death of the Son of God, Sin (and the devil’s accusations against us because of our sins) was defeated.

And though the grave, in apparent victory, swallowed up His body, it choked on it and had to give Him up again, resurrected, alive and glorious! Indeed, as St. Paul writes: “But now Christ has been raised from the dead . . . [and] death has been swallowed up in victory!” (I Corinthians 15:20, 54).

By the way: Christ’s victory over sin, death and the devil is ours as well. Even as we may be tempted to say at a loved one’s death that “death won,” the reality is, it *lost*! The Christian who has died is no longer in the struggle against sin; no longer afflicted with pain and sorrow; no longer suffering the assaults and temptations of the devil, the world and his sinful flesh seeking to destroy his faith. The Christian who has died no longer lives in hope; instead, he now lives in the fulfillment of that hope in the presence of his resurrected and glorified Savior. It is only his body that is “Asleep in Jesus” waiting for its victorious resurrection at the Last Day.

We know all this to be true because God’s Word says it is true, and Christ’s resurrection proves that it is true. So, here’s another saying for you: *“Christ is Risen! He is Risen, Indeed! Alleluia!”*

Please join us during our Holy Week and Easter Services as we behold again the love of Christ for all, and His victory for us.

Maundy Thursday: 1:30 & 7:30 pm

Good Friday: 1:00 & 8:00 pm

Easter Eve: 6:00 pm

Easter Sunday: 7:00 & 10:00 am

A Blessed and Happy Easter!

Pastor Lueke