

In Domine Jesu

I WILL NOT DIE, BUT I SHALL LIVE

Our sermon for this Sunday in which we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord is taken from our inspired readings. Hear again the Word of the Lord:

*I shall not die,
but I shall live and recount (the) deeds of YHWH.
Sorely He has chastened me:
but to death He has not given me over.¹*

Grace be unto you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ

This morning we have, as part of the Lord's service to us, a follow-on recitation of the 118th Psalm from Palm Sunday! This Divine Service's Psalm, which began the Sundays of Lent, ended them last week. This week, the 118th Psalm, with four more verses than last week, is available in this Prime Service which begins the Sundays of Easter. That is why it is printed out on page seven of your bulletins.

Until Holy Saturday, I was not sure how, or if, I could follow the pattern for this year's Sundays in preaching Christ from the Psalms. That is because there was no room for its text in the Festival Service. Perhaps, by listening to the Holy Spirit working through that Word, I have been given the manner in which to use it to proclaim to you Christ-crucified for the forgiveness of all your sins, and Christ-resurrected to declare you right with God the Father. The Spirit shall lead, and God will be the Judge. We Who are one with God in Christ, shall be fine with that. Those who are not, well....

¹ Psalm 118:17-18.

In the Easter Season, this day's Psalm shows up four times, twice as much as it did in Lent and one more time than it does in the Nativity and Pentecost/Trinity seasons. The 118th Psalm, therefore, holds a significant place in the Church's annual remembrance of our Lord's Incarnation, Passion, death and resurrection.

By now, some of you may be thinking, "I did not come here to hear about the Psalm." First, **you** did not come here; the Holy Spirit used human means to get you here. Second, the Holy Spirit brought you here so that you may hear and believe the Word of God – that which shows you your sin and your Savior. Third, if you came here with your own desires – to see the decorations -- the sparkle of the gold and the soft white of the lilies; to hear the singing; to visit with others whom you only may see once-in-a-while; to feel good that you did the "Jesus thing" on Easter rather than had your 420 smoke: repent! If those are your motivations for being here, you are missing the point of the Lord's Service to us. Turn from such thinking, and reflect on these words, and what the Holy Spirit declares them to mean:

*[A] Voice (of) songs and victory (is) in (the) tents of righteous ones;
(the) right hand of YHWH does valiantly.
(The) right hand of YHWH (is) exalted,
(the) right hand of YHWH does valiantly.²*

When you hear about the Psalm, specifically when the 118th Psalm is preached, it declares to you Christ-crucified and raised from the dead. It proclaims

² Psalm 118:15-16.

that you are right with the Father. You hear of your victory in Christ over sin, death, and hell. The Psalm teaches you that, in Jesus' resurrection, God showed Him exalted, lifted up, above our greatest enemies – death, hell, and the devil. That is all packed into the opening words of the Psalm given for this Sunday, four verses which were absent from last Sunday's text. Hear them again, as we delve a bit deeper into their treasures, line-by-line:

[A] Voice (of) songs and victory (is) in (the) tents of righteous ones;³

The Psalm speaks of songs inspired by victory. The victory declared from the context of the Psalm's other verses, is that of the death and resurrection of Christ Whom we know to be Jesus. His conquest is proclaimed in the hymns and special music of this Divine Service. They were chosen with care by our Church Musician and our Deacon, doctrinally checked by our pastor, and studied by our musicians. The triumph of which we continue to sing today is declared in the following verse of the Psalm, which proclaims:

*I shall not die,
but I shall live and recount (the) deeds of YHWH.⁴*

Of course, those words speak of Jesus. You heard, in the Gospel reading that the women discovered that the tomb was empty, save for some grave cloths, and an angel or two. (This past week, as you were listening during one of the passion

³ Psalm 118:15a.

⁴ Psalm 118:17.

narratives, you learned that Jesus' lifeless Body was laid in a new grave belong to Joseph of Arimathea). That death and burial was the result of the fulfillment, in Jesus, of these words of today's Psalm:

*Sorely He has chastened me,
but to death not He has given me over.⁵*

A few of you may not have come here to hear about all that death stuff.

Well, it is the death stuff about Jesus that meant that there was going to be the resurrection of Jesus. Jesus' victory on the Cross, the fulfillment of all prophecy that showed that by His wounds we would be healed, guaranteed Jesus' resurrection from the grave. From that resurrection, all human flesh will be raised on the Last Day—some to everlasting glory, purity, and bliss.

To many people however, the final resurrection will bring everlasting condemnation. That is because they, while living in their mortal bodies, rejected the death of Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins. They refused to see and hear, while in this life that in Jesus, these words were fulfilled:

*(The) right hand of YHWH (is) exalted,
(the) right hand of YHWH does valiantly.⁶*

For you who believe in Jesus as the suffering Christ who was raised from the dead there is much earthly and eternal Good News in His exaltation on the Cross.

First, the Father chastened Him. That means, in history, God allowed sinners to

⁵ Psalm 118:17-18.

⁶ Psalm 118:15-16.

humiliate Him, whip and beat Him, and crucify Him – as He bore our sins. In those events, Jesus' bore the Father's wrath for us, for you. The Father allowed the Son, Jesus, to bear your sins, my sins, and the sins of the whole world into death and the grave. He did that so that you and I, and all people, may not have to carry our sins and the punishments they deserve into eternity. The Psalm says first of Jesus, then of those who remain named with His Name: *but to death not He has given me over.*⁷

Now, it is true that Jesus beheld death, in His person. He died. Sometime from Holy Saturday to Resurrection Sunday, Jesus descended into the place of the dead.

But His descent into death's realm was unlike that of any other human. Jesus entered into that place of shadows, Hades as the Greeks called it, and there declared His victory! He freed those who had waited while in this life on His appearing: Adam, Seth, Noah, Abraham, Issac, Joseph, Moses, David, all the faithful from all the millennia before that first Good Friday were liberated from death's prison by the Son of God.

Jesus, in His death, conquered death. He was declared Lord over it. In Him, all who call upon Jesus in the Faith also, from the first Resurrection Sunday onward, all of us Christians, will also not be given over to death. That is why this day's Psalm still declares:

⁷ *Psalm 118:17-18.*

*(The) right hand of YHWH (is) exalted,
(the) right hand of YHWH does valiantly.⁸*

Jesus can be rightly understood to be the Right Hand of God. That is the hand of honor, of power, and of might. Jesus, the Son of God Who is on the Father's right, exercises His dominion over death in His death, and life in His resurrection to eternal life. You sang as much today with these words:

He reigns triumphant, heavenly King.⁹

Our mediator at the heav'nly throne.¹⁰

Now still He comes to give us life...¹¹

He lives eternally to save...¹²

Of course, just before this sermon, in the great *Te Deum*, you chanted of the realities of Christ, His passion, death, resurrection and ascension. As the risen and ascended Lord Jesus comes to us with His true Body and true Blood, in, with, and under the earthly elements of bread and wine, you will sing a threefold *Holy is God, the Lord of Sabaoth!*¹³ In those words you declare Jesus to be the Master and Commander of the Angel Hosts. You confess that He who is at the right Hand of YHWH is raised up, and comes to you. In the "Lamb of God" canticle which follows, you call upon that ruling Lamb Who was slain and is raised to have mercy on us, and grant us peace,

⁸ *Psalms* 118:15-16.

⁹ Kyamanywa, Bernard. *Lutheran Service Book*, "Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia," St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2006, 466.5.

¹⁰ *Lutheran Service Book*, "Kyrie! God Father," tr. Gustave Polack, St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2006, 942..

¹¹ Strodach, Paul Z.. *Lutheran Service Book*, "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds," St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2006, 465.3.

¹² Medley, Samuel. *Lutheran Service Book*, "I Know that My Redeemer Lives," St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2006, 461.2.

¹³ Luther, Martin. *Lutheran Service Book*, "Isaiah, Mighty Seer in Days of Old," St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2006, 960.

with God, and our fellow communicants. Remember then, the words of today's

Psalm:

*(The) right hand of YHWH (is) exalted,
(the) right hand of YHWH does valiantly.¹⁴*

Hear those truths echo as you may sing during the distribution of Christ's
Body and Blood to all who partake of the Sacrament of the Altar:

Sing to Jesus; His the scepter, His the throne...¹⁵

*Mighty Victim from the sky, Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie; You have
conquered in the fight, You have brought us life and light. Alleluia.¹⁶*

Yes, in declaring the message of today's Bible readings, we have managed
to quote each hymn and canticle listed in our bulletins. That was done to show how
the Body of Christ, attached to our Head Who even now rules through the Word,
rightly sings, and visits with one another, and rejoices as Jesus does His things – rule,
and forgive, and save. It is with the words of the music of the Church that we fulfill
the words of the Psalm: *I shall live and recount (the) deeds of YHWH*. That is why we
proclaim through the feast days of the Easter Season:

He is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Hallelujah!

The peace which passes all understanding guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus

Resurrection Divine Service (LSB One-Year Series)

Psalm 118:15-29; Job 19:23-27; I Corinthians 5:6-8; Mark 16:1-8

April 20, 2014

Pastor Michael A. Morehouse

Soli Deo Gloria

¹⁴ Psalm 118:15-16.

¹⁵ Dix, William C. *Lutheran Service Book*, "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus," St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2006, 821:1.

¹⁶ *Lutheran Service Book*, "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing," tr. Robert Campbell, St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2006, 633:5.

TRANSLATION, SECOND DRAFT:

*(A) Voice (of) songs and victory (is) in (the) tents of righteous ones;
(the) right hand of YHWH does valiantly.*

*(The) right hand of YHWH (is) exalted,
(the) right hand of YHWH does valiantly.¹⁷*

*Not I shall die,
but I shall live and recount (the) deeds of YHWH.*

*Sorely He has chastened me,
but to death not He has given me over.¹⁸*

*All of you open to Me the gates of righteousness;
that I may enter through them to give thanks to YH!¹⁹*

*This is the gate to YHWH;
righteous ones shall enter through it.²⁰*

*I cause to thank you;
for You have answered me,
and have become my Salvation.²¹*

(The) stone which the builders rejected has become (the) head of the corner.²²

From YHWH this happened; it is marvelous in our eyes.²³

*This (is) the Day which YHWH has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it!²⁴*

*We beseech You, O YHWH,
cause to save us, we pray You, O YHWH,
cause to give us success, we pray You.²⁵*

*Blessed (is) He who enters in (the) Name of YHWH;
we bless You from House of YHWH.²⁶*

El, YHWH gives light to us;

¹⁷ Psalm 118:15-16.

¹⁸ Psalm 118:17-18.

¹⁹ Psalm 118:19

²⁰ Psalm 118:20

²¹ Psalm 118:21

²² Psalm 118:22

²³ Psalm 118:23

²⁴ Psalm 118:24

²⁵ Psalm 118:25

²⁶ Psalm 118:26

*all of you bind the festal procession;
with branches come upon the horns of the Altar.²⁷*

*My El You are,
and I will cause to give thanks to You,
my Elhoe, I will extol You.²⁸*

*All of you give thanks to YHWH;
for good into forever (is) His steadfast love!²⁹*

²⁷ Psalm 118:27.

²⁸ Psalm 118:28

²⁹ Psalm 118:29.