

“Drowned in Victory?”—Exodus 14:30-15:1

The text for this sermon, the theme of which is, “Drowned in Victory?”, is Exodus 14:30-15:1 → *Thus Yahweh saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great power that Yahweh used against the Egyptians, so the people feared Yahweh, and they believed in Yahweh and in His servant Moses. Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to Yahweh, saying, “I will sing to Yahweh, for He has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider He has thrown into the sea.”* This is the text.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus:

The year is 1446 BC. The Old Testament Church has just been set free from years of slavery and abuse by the Egyptians. By faith the people of Yahweh slaughtered a lamb without blemish or defect, placing its blood on the door frames and posts of their houses so that the messenger of death would pass over their house and not slay the firstborn in their family. They ate the first Passover meal, a meal signifying God’s covenant of redemption in their lives. They were ready at any moment to leave Egypt and when Yahweh said “Go!” they went.

While on their trek of freedom they encounter an obstacle which seems unsurpassable—the Red Sea. The anxiety is heightened by the fact that Pharaoh’s army is in hot pursuit with the desire to wipe out the Israelites, God’s Church. Overtaken with terror, the people accuse Moses of bringing their doom upon them, while Moses encourages them: *Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of Yahweh, which He will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. **Yahweh will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.*** (cf. Exodus 14:13-14)

Moses raises his staff, the waters part and the people of God pass over on dry ground with Pharaoh’s army in hot pursuit! Once safe on the other side the water caves in on Pharaoh’s army downing them. *Thus Yahweh saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore.* They were drowned in Yahweh’s victory!

When *Israel saw the great power that Yahweh used against the Egyptians . . . the people feared . . . and . . . believed in Yahweh and in His servant Moses. Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to Yahweh, saying, “I will sing to Yahweh, for He has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider He has thrown into the sea.”* Let’s sing it together: hymn #925.

Song of Moses and Israel

925

Refrain

I will sing to the LORD, for He has triumphed glo-rious -
ly; the horse and his rid-er He has thrown in - to the sea.

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They rejoiced in the new life of deliverance from slavery which Yahweh had brought about by His grace! When the world says, “No way!” the Church says, “Yahweh!”

The year is 312 AD. Christians have experienced decades of intense persecution from the Roman

emperors, the government striving to wipe out Christ's Church. Brutal tortures inflicted on Christians along with death in the coliseums by lions, gladiators and burning at the stake were the sport of the day for many.

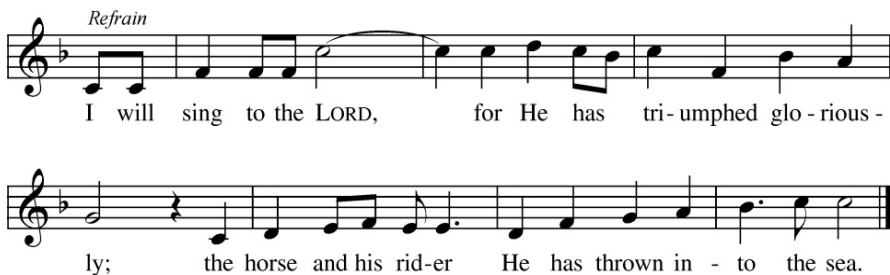
Emperor Constantine, the first fully attested Christian emperor, arrives at the borders of Rome in an effort to unite the Roman Empire under one ruler and do away with official government persecution. The battle against Maxentius happens on the Milvian Bridge which spans the Tiber River at the north of Rome. Constantine defeats him in one of the most crucial battles in the history of Western civilization, affecting the Christian Church for centuries to come!

When hundreds of Maxentius' solders drowned in the Tiber River the Christians rejoiced over the victory and deliverance from satan's working through the Roman tyranny, which God had brought about on their behalf through Constantine! The Christians considered them drowned in Yahweh's victory! They compared it to the deliverance which Yahweh had brought about for the Church in the Old Testament after passing through the Red Sea. The Christians experiencing the victory of Constantine *sang this song to Yahweh, saying, "I will sing to Yahweh, for He has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider He has thrown into the sea."* Let's sing it together: hymn #925.

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Now the Church was free to openly practice their faith and share the Gospel of new life in Jesus Christ with others! They rejoiced in the new life of deliverance from the harsh persecutions inflicted upon them by satan through the Roman government. Again, Yahweh was gracious! When the world says, "No way!" the Church says, "Yahweh!"

The year is 33 AD. The Church is in turmoil as 12 ruffians watch as their fearless leader is betrayed by one of their own company into the hands of conspirators. Forbidden to intervene they feel helpless as they watch Him dragged away by soldiers, forced through a mock trial to determine a sentence of death, beaten, mocked and flogged to the point of exhaustion. They nail Him to a cross, watching Him suffer the agony of death, little knowing that He was suffering the agony of hell itself with separation from His heavenly Father—**and that all for their forgiveness!!**

Dead and placed in a tomb Jesus' disciples are in fear for their own lives, probably wondering if they're next. They gather together, but behind locked doors for fear of the Jews. It appears that the devil has won according to Jesus' own words to His conspirators in Luke 22:52 → *This is your hour, and the power of darkness*. Even on the first Easter Sunday when they arrive at the tomb they still wonder and feel like the religious leaders were victorious in doing away with Jesus. Why? They did not find His body.

Even over the next 40 days their encounters with the risen Christ were filled with mixed feelings of wonder, joy, belief and unbelief. However, on the Day of Pentecost Jesus sends them the promised Holy Spirit Who gives them faith in the Christ as Lord of all! According to 1 Corinthians 2:12, only the Holy Spirit can give faith which confesses Jesus as Lord: *We have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit Who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God*. With the pouring

out of the Holy Spirit upon them they now recognize that they are “drowned” in the victory of Christ!

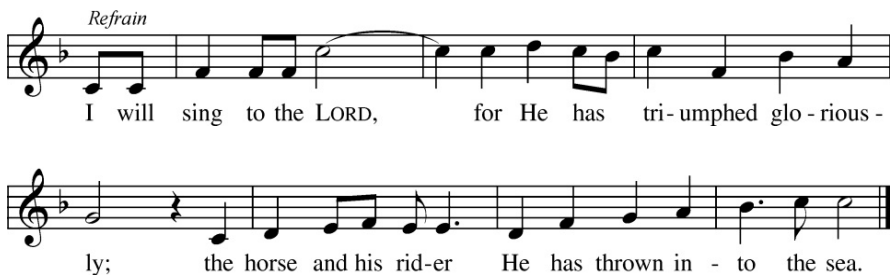
Filled with the Holy Spirit the disciples are no longer locking themselves behind closed doors out of fear of death! The power of death has been destroyed once and for all in the resurrection of Jesus Christ!! There is no need to fear death because we share in the new resurrected life of Christ!! The apostles, standing before the same group who had Jesus crucified, declare with confidence in Acts 5:30-32 → *The God of our fathers raised Jesus, Whom you killed by hanging Him on a tree. God exalted Him at His right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, Whom God has given to those who obey Him.*

The next verse says: *When these religious leaders heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them.* Even in the midst of death threats, imprisonment, rejection and persecution of all kinds, the apostles rejoice in the victory which Jesus has won for them over any tyranny of the devil in their way! They too could have sung the song of victory given to us in our text today because God had brought about His salvation in their lives through the death and resurrection of Jesus! Let’s sing it together: hymn #925.

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Even in the midst of the attacks of the devil on their faith, the Church rejoiced in the new life of deliverance from the power of sin, death and the devil in the death and resurrection of Jesus! When the world says, “No way!” the Church says, “Yahweh!”

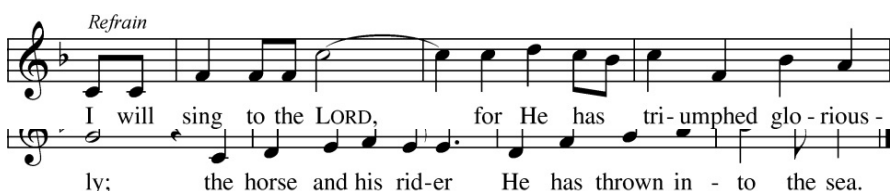
The year is . . . well . . . you will have to fill in this date yourself. It is the date when you were connected to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is the date that you died to sin and were raised to a whole new life in Jesus’ Person & Work. It is the date when you received the Holy Spirit Who gave you faith and new birth in Christ. It is the date you were connected to Christ’s victory over sin, death and the devil! Christ’s resurrection victory became **your** resurrection victory **personally** and you join the ranks of His Church living in that resurrection victory each day! It is the date of your Baptism.

From that day on the Holy Spirit has desired to work His good works through you in service to others in the name of your Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! The devil is working hard to stop you. He places rejection, persecution and temptations to lead you into despair and disable you spiritually. However, even though you experience the presence of sin and satan in the world, he is a defeated enemy because of the death and resurrection of Christ Jesus, your Lord! You can sing about him with the same canticle from page 925. Let’s sing it together.

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You rejoice in the new life of deliverance from slavery to the power of the devil which Yahweh had brought about by His grace! When the world says, “No way!” the Church says, “Yahweh!”

The year is 2014, the 20th day, upon which we are commemorating the resurrection of our Lord. We are gathered here in obedience to our Lord’s command to experience His presence and forgiveness in the body of Christ, we gathered believers. We are gathered here in obedience to our Lord’s command to experience His presence and forgiveness in His body and blood where He says, “Take, eat! Take, drink!” We are gathered here in obedience to our Lord’s command to experience His presence and forgiveness in the Absolution given to each other by Christ’s authority as His body in this place! This is the new life you have in Christ! This is the new life in Christ you take with into every area of your daily life! When we sing the “The Song of Moses” from page 925 it is our confession of how we are drowned in the victory of Christ because we have received His salvation. Therefore, as Exodus 15:2 says: **Yahweh 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!** Let’s sing the “The Song of Moses” on page 925 again:

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