

The Victory's Won!

The world is a mess, and getting messier!

Two wars are raging right now, with potential for others to come. Our “well-educated” students and other “activists” are protesting in favor of terrorists (who, oddly enough, would imprison or annihilate most of those protestors if they tried to advocate in the Middle East for some of their other favorite issues such as homosexuality, transgenderism, or woman’s rights). As for the economy, well, we’re still waiting for prices and interest rates to improve. And on the political front, our elected officials are, as usual, moving at their customary lightning speed [read ‘sarcasm’ here] to solve all our troubles.

And the list goes on!

What, then, do we have to say about all of this? Well, it’s exhausting merely to think about solving all these problems. Every time we even come close to ‘fixing’ one thing, three others pop up needing attention! And while it is tempting to imagine we can just brush it all off and forget about it (especially as fairer weather approaches and the ‘escapism’ of summer suggests we can run away and pretend this mess doesn’t exist), that really changes nothing.

Better to be honest, honest with ourselves and honest with those around us. For we can give a bold and honest answer to all these ills with one powerful truth: Jesus lives! The victory’s won!

You see, all this mess around us is nothing new. We’ve seen all this before and, as long as this world lasts, we’ll see it all again. To put it simply, it’s the result of sin in the world. Sure, some people have given up. I’ve heard a few tell me how they plan to take their lawn chairs out onto their driveways and sit back to watch the world burn. But there’s no need for such despair, for there really is hope for today and for the future.

For sin has been conquered! The devil has been defeated! The power of death has been destroyed, overwhelmed for all those who trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior! In Him, and Him alone, we have the forgiveness of our sins, life, salvation, and ultimate deliverance from all the sorrows, sadness, and struggles that surround us.

As Christian Gellert wrote in his familiar hymn:

“Jesus lives! I know full well Nothing me from Him shall sever.

Neither death nor pow’rs of hell Part me now from Christ forever.

God will be my sure defense; This shall be my confidence.” (*LSB* 490:4)

All of this because Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! And not only is He risen, He has ascended into heaven, where He sits at the right hand of the Father, constantly interceding for us.

What’s more, ten days after He ascended, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit on that first Pentecost (which we will remember on Sunday, May 19th). With that great outpouring of power from on high, the Apostles proclaimed the death and Resurrection of Jesus that forgives sins, and 3,000 souls were added to the Church that day.

And the Spirit’s work hasn’t stopped since! Here we are, about 2,000 years later, still proclaiming the good news that “Jesus lives! The victory’s won! Death no longer can appall me ... All I need God will dispense; This shall be my confidence.”

Yes, our gracious God shall see us through these days, dark and difficult though they may be. He shall bring us through to glories unimaginable, to joys beyond compare. So be at peace! All is not lost. In fact, quite the opposite. In spite of how things may appear, the outcome of this war has already been decided. For Jesus lives! The victory’s won!