

Theme: OUR VICTORY SONG

- I. I will praise
- II. I will bring others to praise

**In that day you will say:
 “I will praise you, LORD.
 Although you were angry with me,
 your anger has turned away
 and you have comforted me.
² Surely God is my salvation;
 I will trust and not be afraid.
 The LORD, the LORD himself, is my strength and my defense;
 he has become my salvation.”
³ With joy you will draw water
 from the wells of salvation.
⁴ In that day you will say:
 “Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name;
 make known among the nations what he has done,
 and proclaim that his name is exalted.
⁵ Sing to the LORD, for he has done glorious things;
 let this be known to all the world.
⁶ Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion,
 for great is the Holy One of Israel among you.”**

Dear victors through Christ our Risen Savior,

How long do you celebrate a victory? Are you still celebrating the Bucks season? Somehow I doubt you're still celebrating the Packers' 2011 Super Bowl trophy. Probably less of you are rejoicing over the Brewers' 1982 American League championship—although Cubs fan might still be celebrating their 2016 victory. How long will New Glarus revel in their boys' basketball title, or Blackhawk their girls'? Outside of the world of sports, how long do you celebrate? How long would you remember if you won the lottery, a board game or a night of cards? How long do you celebrate a victory?

Today we remember a victory of such proportions, it's worth celebrating every day, every minute, every heartbeat for the rest of our lives. It's not a victory we've gained after a hard-fought battle, but God's victory over his enemies. He gives us the victory. Christians celebrate that victory every week in worship. We celebrate it this Resurrection Sunday. God's Word proclaims that victory: OUR VICTORY SONG.

“**In that day you will say,**” it says. What day? The day of our victory. The words that follow are OUR VICTORY SONG. “**I will praise you, LORD.**” We have something worth praising God for! This morning we celebrate the resurrection of the Lord. Jesus has risen from the dead! But why is that worth celebrating? To understand that, we need to understand what comes next.

We need to understand what makes God angry. We need to understand why he would be angry with us. God wants us to celebrate his victory. God's will for us is to celebrate his victory every day, every second. Whether you come to church every week or today is the first time you've ever set foot in a church, we don't do that. That's because something gets in the way. Something stops us from rejoicing in God's victory every day.

God calls it sin. Because of sin, God is angry with us. We are all born in sin, and we all still sin. So when God says he is angry, he's not a little upset. It's not like he'll get over it. He hates sin. It disgusts him. It's not an attitude problem with God. It's a problem with us.

That's because God created us to worship him. He created us to sing his praises. But we do not—cannot—do what he demands. He has the right to demand it because he created us. He has the right to demand it because of all he has done for us.

How long would it take you to get out of a toxic relationship? Not a bad romance or Debby Downer, but someone you pour your effort into without any result? A friend who gives nothing back, the relative who is always trying to one-up everyone with how bad life is? How long till you give up and move on?

Even if you do give up, God didn't. God would be right to demand we pay for how we have mistreated him, but he didn't. If you think your sins aren't all that serious, look to what God did! He sent his Son Jesus, who went willingly to suffer for our sin. Talk about a toxic relationship! He took our sin, endured God's anger on the cross. Jesus turned God's anger away from us. If you think you are beyond saving, that you could never be forgiven, look to the cross! Jesus turned God's anger away from us. He had compassion on us. He comforted us with his cross. Instead of demanding we do what we cannot, he came to be who we could not. **"Surely God is my salvation."** He is the safe place we go, where our enemies cannot harm us.

So today we sing OUR VICTORY SONG! We have safety from sin in Jesus! He paid for every single one. In Jesus, we are set free from sin! We are now free to serve him, to praise him, to worship him, every minute of every day! This victory is God's free gift to us by faith—we trust his promise. And we don't need to be afraid. God's anger won't come back. He won't change his mind. The price has been paid! His anger has turned away!

And even death cannot stop our celebration. **"The LORD, The LORD himself is my strength and my defense. He has become my salvation."** Jesus is the LORD. He is our strength and defense. It's not that he was. Death didn't stop him from being our strength. His strength proved stronger than death. Death didn't stop him from defending us. He defends us from death. He rose from the dead, victorious, proving God has accepted Jesus' sacrifice! He is our safe place.

That brings us joy. We have the joy of knowing heaven is open. God's love for us in Jesus gets us in. In joy, we come back to Jesus—day after day, week after week. We draw water from the wellspring of salvation, from the source, from God as he speaks to us in his Word. What a joy it is to come back to this message, OUR VICTORY SONG, every day! Every day we get to learn about God's forgiving love. Every day we have the victory. Every day our hearts find rest in Jesus. Every day we have joy—joy that nothing and no one can take away from you, the joy of eternal life in the love of Jesus.

That gives us a reason to sing. People sing songs for lots of reasons. A line like, "All you need is love," trumpets the praises of love. "Lean on me," commends the support of friendship. "The land of the free and the home of the brave," praises our nation. People sing for a lot of reasons. Some are good; others maybe aren't.

Today we have the greatest reason to sing. Jesus rose from the dead! Our sins are forgiven! God is not angry with us! We live in God's love! Because of God's love, one day we will go to heaven! The

LORD still does great things for us during our life on earth! Jesus has promised never to leave us! That's something to sing about. Sing the praises of The LORD, who saves us.

Get that word out. There is a progression in OUR VICTORY SONG. The first verse says, "**I will praise you.**" As the song moves on, the lyrics become, "**Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done.**" We will not rest until the whole world knows the LORD saves us. We will not stop praising God and proclaiming what he has done. What a message we have to proclaim!

That's why we come to worship today and every week. We sing God's praises. We proclaim to each other what God has done. We encourage one another with this message of God's free forgiveness in Jesus. And we sing OUR VICTORY SONG. Our worship doesn't end after Easter or any other day. We keep praising God every minute, every second. We praise him by bringing this good news to others. Let the whole world hear until we celebrate our victory forever with Jesus in heaven.

So how long do you celebrate a victory? Regardless of how long you celebrate personal victories, God has given us the victory over sin, death, and hell. That's a victory we never stop celebrating. Amen.

The LORD has become your salvation. Amen.