

Easter 3

“With High Delight Let Us Unite” (*Lutheran Service Book* #483)

The delight we experience as Christians comes from the faith given to us by the Holy Spirit. After His resurrection Jesus meets two of his disciples on the road to Emmaus where he opens the Scriptures to them. Here we see the work of the Holy Spirit working through the Word of God and the Gospel story. The disciples’ response to this work: “*Did not our hearts burn within us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?*”¹ The work of the Gospel penetrated their hearts, minds, and souls. Today our experience is just as profound as we gather in church to hear the Gospel proclaimed and partake in the sacred meal. In this context Christians sincerely sing *with high delight let us unite in songs of great jubilation*. Our worship is a response to the faith that God has first given us. It is a response full of sincere delight in the realities of Easter Day. As the hymn puts it, we sing *Jesus Christ, our salvation to set us free forever*.

The entire Easter drama, from Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem, to his celebrating the first Eucharist with his disciples, to his sacrifice on the cross, his descent into hell to proclaim His victory, to His glorious resurrection, this is what we live to tell. Jesus, because he is God, cannot but be raised from the dead. *Jesus is ris’n and sends to all earth’s ends good news to save ev’ry nation*. This is what the delighted, faith-filled disciples do when Jesus vanishes from their sight. They immediately go back to Jerusalem, find the eleven disciples and say *the Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon! Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of bread*.²

The story that we sing is quite the story. The second stanza captures this beautifully, *True God, He first from death has burst forth into life, all subduing. His enemy doth vanquished lie; His death has been death’s undoing*. This story is like no other story. God, out of His great love becomes man so He can die to save His creation and in doing so crushes Satan. Satan no longer has dominion over death! “*And yours shall be like victory o’er death and grave,*” *Saith He, who gave His life for us, life renewing*. When we hear this astounding story of love and sacrifice we cannot help but *let praises ring!*

This is the wonderful thing about being a baptized Christian, we are redeemed. No matter where we find ourselves in life we are the Lords and he will sustain us day by day. The hymn says *so shall His love give us above, from misery and death set free, all joy and full consolation*. The Lord has made us his in our Baptism, he has done it. This is the surest foundation a person can stand on. Not only are we redeemed, but we are loved too. This is the consolation for every Christian, we are: redeemed, loved, comforted, and sustained; because we are the Lord’s.

Rev. Stephen Rosebrock
Cantor, Hope Lutheran Church
St. Louis, MO



¹ Luke 24:32

² Luke 24:33-35

With high delight let us unite in songs of great jubilation.
Ye pure in heart, all bear your part, sing Jesus Christ, our salvation.
To set us free forever, He is ris'n and sends to all earth's ends
Good news to save ev'ry nation.

True God, He first from death has burst forth into life, all subduing.
His enemy doth vanquished lie; His death has been death's undoing.
“And yours shall be like victory o'er death and grave,” saith He, who gave
All joy and full consolation.

Let praises ring; give thanks, and bring to Christ our Lord adoration.
His honor speed by word and deed to ev'ry land, ev'ry nation.
So shall His love give us above, from misery and death set free,
All joy and full consolation.

Text: *Lutheran Service Book* #483. Written by Georg Vetter (1536—99), a priest of the Unity of Brethren. It has been shortened from 13 stanzas to three. Other Scriptural references include 1 Corinthians 15:22-23 and Colossians 1:18. The translation by Martin H. Franzmann (Concordia Seminary, St. Louis) is copyrighted © 1969 by Concordia Publishing House.