

Christ is risen!... **“The LORD 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.”** On this Easter morning we rejoice because the Lord is my song! **THE LORD IS MY SONG BECAUSE HE HAS REDEEMED ME AND MADE MY LIFE BEAUTIFUL.**

I. The *Lord* is my song because He alone saves. This song of Moses is sung after a historic event in the life of Israel. The people of Israel were enslaved in Egypt by the wicked Pharaoh. This Pharaoh forced them to do hard labor, he limited their freedoms, and even ordered the execution of the male babies of the Hebrew people.

The Lord raised up Moses to do many signs and wonders to the people of Egypt. The Lord sent ten plagues in order to convince Pharaoh to let the Israelites go. The tenth plague culminated in a feast called the Passover, where the Israelites slaughtered lambs and put the blood on the doorposts so that the angel of death would pass over the households of the Hebrew people but instead kill the firstborn of the households of the Egyptians: vengeance for the killing of the firstborn Hebrew boys.

After that tenth plague, Pharaoh let Moses and his people go, but then changed his mind, he chased the Israelites with his chariots. The Israelites would have been slaughtered, but the Lord sent a strong wind to part the Red Sea, letting the people go across as on dry land. The sea then closed up around the pursuing army.

After that miraculous defeat, Moses could have sung a song about how great he was. He could have sung a song about how talented, courageous, and charismatic he was. But, we hear, “The *Lord* is my song.” Look at who is doing the actions in this song from the Old Testament. The Lord cast the chariots into the sea, the Lord’s right hand is powerful. The Lord blew with the wind. The glory alone goes to God!

“The enemy said, ‘I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil, my desire shall have its fill of them. I will draw my sword; my hand shall destroy them.’” Look how that turned out for them. They were the one defeated by the Lord.

How often is the song of our lives all about us. *I earned my living. I keep healthy. I am skilled, talented, and worthy of praise.* The song Moses sings reminds you, even the proudest among you, that you’re not the hero of the story, you’re just one note in your Heavenly Father’s grand symphony.

This Easter morning we celebrate with songs of joy because the Heavenly Father and the Holy Spirit worked to resurrect Jesus from the dead. Much like the Israelites trapped against the Red Sea, Good Friday seemed as though it was the end of Jesus.

Jesus quoted the Psalm, **“The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This is the LORD’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.”** Jesus was that rejected stone, rejected by the religious elites, rejected by the world, rejected by us. But the third day Jesus rose from the grave, not of his own doing, but the Lord’s doing. Jesus is now the pinnacle of creation. Jesus raised from the dead is our hope as Christians. He is indeed the cornerstone on Him alone we build. The *Lord* is my song. He alone saves. All praise be to our God on this Easter festival of joy!

II. The Lord is my song because He redeemed me. If you were to read the rest of the song of Moses, you would read this verse 13, **“You have led in your steadfast love**

the people whom you have redeemed; you have guided them by your strength to your holy abode.” Moses then goes on to talk about how the surrounding nations are terrified of the Lord’s work in saving Israel.

At the Passover and in the Exodus, an Israelite understood that the Lord God worked to save *him*. Not just anyone, but *him*. Every Israelite woman who saw those amazing deeds of God knew that he intervened to save *her*. As the people of Israel celebrated that Passover feast, it was an opportunity for each Israelite to reflect and ponder how the Lord God had saved *him* or *her*.

The Lord is *my* song. Our God’s deeds are always specific. They are always aimed at a particular person at a particular time. On this Easter Sunday, how is the Lord *your* song? Not Pastor Eichers’ song, not grandma’s song, not your super-religious aunt’s song. How is the Lord *your* song?

This day, know that the Lord God saved the Israelites by them crossing the Red Sea ultimately to save you. If the Israelites were wiped out, there would be no Israel and no line of kings that would culminate in the birth of Jesus.

Today, know that the Lord God sent Jesus Christ to die for *you*. He sent Jesus Christ to forgive *your* sins. Jesus rose on the third day for *you*, to prove to you that just as he died and rose, so will you.

And yes, I know that a “you” and a “me” makes a “we,” the Lord God did indeed do all of these things for all of us, but I want you to forget the others just for a moment. Even if all the rest of us are damned and sent to hell, it would have been enough for God to do all of this just for *you*. The Lord is *my* song because He redeemed *me*.

Think of all the good things God has done for you. It started in giving you new birth in a flood—not the flood that drowned Pharaoh—a different flood of waters. He claimed you through the waters of Baptism, forgiving you and renewing you. He instructed you through His word. He feeds you with the body and blood of His Son Jesus here at this altar. All of this for *you*. Think of the day you’re going to die. Unless Christ comes again first, each and every one of you listening will have a day that you’ll die. Jesus rose from the dead for *you* to show you that you will rise with Him.

Think of all those mistakes in your life. Those cringeworthy things you did that you regret. Things that the person sitting to your left didn’t do, but that you did. Jesus came to this earth to forgive *you* of those specific sins. The Lord is *my* song.

Think of all the blessings in your life. These blessings are specific to you, so I can’t fill in the blanks, but for example, do you have a beautiful spouse? Do you have a loving family? Do you have a wonderful job? Do you have a roof over your head? Did you make it through that surgery? Did you avoid that accident? I want you to understand that all these are Easter blessings straight from God for *you*.

III. The Lord is my song because He makes my life beautiful. Why do we have music? It’s certainly not necessary from a biological standpoint. It’s not like if you don’t listen to three songs a week, that you’ll shrivel up and die. Yet it’s one of these blessings that the Lord gives us to make our lives more beautiful. The Lord is my *song*, and He wants to make your life beautiful.

There are songs all throughout the Bible. We heard the song of Moses today in Exodus 15. He sang another one in Deuteronomy. The Book of Psalms is a book of 150 different songs the people of God have sung. The New Testament has songs that the Church has sung such as the Song of Mary, the Song of Simeon, and the Song of Zechariah. Even today we sung cherished Easter hymns such as “I know that my Redeemer Lives,” “Jesus Christ is Risen Today,” and “Come Ye Faithful Raise the Strain.”

We see that Biblical characters sing in the most unusual places. Jesus and His disciples sing a hymn after the Lord’s Supper but before Jesus is arrested. Paul and Silas sing and pray in prison and the other prisoners look on in amazement. Even in the Book of Revelation, the heavenly company sings. We get snippets of some of their songs.

Songs are beautiful! On this Easter we reflect not only on the resurrection of our Lord, but on how that shapes all of our lives. C.S. Lewis once wrote, “I believe in Christianity as I believe that the Sun has risen, not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.” To be a Christian is not only to believe that the Son of God rose, but it is to have everything shaped by that reality. Your life follows in the footsteps of Jesus’ life as you experience deaths, you too will experience resurrections and victories. Through faith in Jesus, your life is intertwined in Jesus’ and Jesus promises to make your life beautiful.

Beautiful doesn’t mean easy. Beautiful doesn’t mean carefree. Beautiful doesn’t mean without tragedy. Beautiful means a story worth telling. Beautiful is meaningful. Beautiful embraces twists, turns, and tragedy—yet redeems them.

This resurrection reality proclaims the Lord is my *song*. Easter means that God has a plan for your life to redeem every aspect of it: every sorrow, every disappointment, every failure. Easter means that the Lord God is working your life into a song, and a beautiful one at that. Walk alongside Him and participate in it until the final encore.

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THE LORD IS MY *SONG* BECAUSE HE HAS REDEEMED ME AND MADE MY LIFE BEAUTIFUL.