

## "Christ The Victor"

by Pastor Jeffrey Miskus

Preached on Easter Sunday

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Rev 19:11-16 "I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean.

Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS."

He is none other than the Risen and Ascended Lord Jesus Christ – who is not dead but alive – who is not in the tomb but is with us – here and now with his live and his power as he lives and rules at the right hand of God our Heavenly Father.

To the victor go the spoils.

Jesus Christ our Lord has conquered the evil powers of sin death and the devil. He has done what no man could ever do., He died and rose again. Jesus conquered death. Christ is Risen. He is risen indeed.

Paul writes in Romans 6:9 "For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him." Having risen from the dead – Jesus Christ has an indestructible life. Nothing can harm him – not even death. All authority, all power, all glory in heaven and on earth is His. He had authority to lay down his life and authority to take it up again. His enemies are helpless before him.

Oh Death – where is your victory now? You have taken human beings down to the dust ever since Adam's fall. Everyone has fallen to your attack. No human has ever faced the jaws of death and returned never to die again.

Until now. Now there is hope. Now there is one who stands! Now there is one who stands victorious over death. Jesus Christ - The Son of God - stands in the flesh outside his tomb – alive – once dead now Risen. Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here – said the angel – HE IS RISEN!

Brothers and sisters - now we have a living hope! His name is Jesus. Now we face death with a sure and certain hope. The Risen Christ is that hope. For Jesus declares to us in John 14:19 – "Because I live, you also will live." And Jesus promises in John 11:25-26 "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."

And he can make those promises – because he – and only he can fulfill those promises. Listen to John 2: 18-22, "Then the Jews demanded of him, "What miraculous sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." The Jews replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" But the temple he had spoken of was his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the Scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken." They believed because Jesus proved himself more than able – more than faithful – to come through on his promises.

The joy of Easter is the good news that Jesus' victory over death was for us and is shared with us.

God didn't need to die and rise for himself. God is life – he cannot die. But to save us from death – he sent his Son to take on flesh – our flesh. Jesus became a man so that he could face death for us – die and rise victorious. He died for all men that all might die to sin. He rose for all that all might rise again.

1 Corinthians 15:20-23, "But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.

1 Corinthians 15:52 and 57 declares, "For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable,"..."But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

He gives us the victory over death!!! That's the joy of Easter – we shall be raised imperishable – like Jesus – never to die again. "Blessed are those who mourn – for they shall be comforted." Comforted by the hope of the resurrection of Jesus that he will share with us. Comforted by the death of Jesus that provides for us the forgiveness of our sins.

Jesus is LORD – He Rules – He Reigns

1 Corinthians 15:24-26 reads, "Then the end will come, when he (Jesus) hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. He will destroy all dominion, all authority and power that sets itself against God – NAMELY SIN, DEATH, AND THE DEVIL HIMSELF. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Isaiah (25:7-8) proclaims it, "On this mountain he (God) will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove the disgrace of his people from all the earth. The LORD has spoken. The LORD has spoken – who can reverse it! The LORD

has spoken – who can change it! When the Lord bends something – who can straighten it?

The Lord Jesus has risen! Let all mouths keep silent... Let all tongues be still... Let all ears be opened... Let all eyes behold... And let all hearts embrace what the LORD has done!

Isaiah 25:9, "In that day they will say, "Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation."

God gives us the victory! The dead will be raised imperishable! Never – never – never to die again!

In John 6:38 Jesus declares, "For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."

Brothers and sisters rejoice in the mighty deeds of God!

Marvel at the supernatural – unmatched – absolute – all powerful - often imitated but never duplicated - works of God's right hand. As you sing to the Lord this morning and worship His Holy Name – hold his mighty deed before your hearts. Praise him for who he is and what he has done. Let the glory and works of God lift you from this world to join the angel's surrounding God's throne in praise.

On the cross God's Son did what no man could ever do. As the spotless, sinless lamb of God – the perfect sacrifice, He bore our sin. He took away the sin of the world. In our place He endured God's wrath.

God raised him from the dead so that we could believe all our sins were paid for in full.

In Romans 8:31-35 Paul asks. "What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died--more than that, who was raised to life--is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?...

(Vs 37-39) "No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

