Exodus 15:2 The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. He is my God and I will praise him, my father’s God, and I will exalt him.

Wow! Here we are again gathered together to celebrate the greatest, the most wonderful day of the year. The day of the Resurrection of Jesus. That day that is the heart and core, the whole point of our Christian faith and hope. Please, listen to me. If you have a church or even know a friend who goes to a church that does not teach the actual, physical resurrection of Jesus then tell them their church has a problem. You cannot, I repeat, you cannot deny the actual physical resurrection of Jesus and still be a Christian. You cannot, because it is the resurrection of Jesus from the dead actually and physically alive, that is the ultimate proof of who and what Jesus is. God told us the proof of what His Son would do is affirmed by the resurrection. God told us that the proof of who is His Son is in the fact of his dying and coming back to life.

And please, we are not talking about some sort of “spiritual, mystical” thing. “Jesus lives on in our hearts and minds.” Or “As long as you have faith you can “see” Jesus and He will be alive for you.” What absolute garbage such sophistry is. 1 Corinthians 15 makes it clear. **“If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.”** Everyone here knows the lessons of the resurrection, don’t we? The resurrection proves that Jesus is God’s Son, that Jesus is our Redeemer and that Jesus will raise us from the dead? Yes, it is that important!

Now, why do I start out so strongly speaking of this? Well, it was really brought about by our text, our Old Testament text for this day. Here in this text we have a song of praise and glory to God for the great victory, the great deliverance that God has given to his people. This song that forms our text was the result of God’s great victory found in the Exodus. Not only that the Israelites were freed from slavery, but that they plundered the Egyptians, were directly guided by God and then Pharaoh’s army was soundly defeated as Pharaoh tried to take on the Lord God head to head.

Dear people, you recognize that this song could not exist without those events actually taking place? You cannot sing of the victory unless there was a victory. You cannot talk of horse and rider drowned in the sea unless it happened. You know, the very sea you crossed. You crossed on dry land with walls of water on both sides, clearly an act of God’s might and power. But when Pharaoh directed his army across, those walls came crashing down and that was their end. No miracle here and there is no song of victory! Isn’t that simple. Either you believe what God has revealed or you don’t believe in God.

And please, do you really think that this Exodus and the miraculous escape of the Israelites through the sea was nothing more than “natural” occurrences that religious zealots embellished to make their religion look better. Do you think people back then would have stood for that any more than we stand for it today? And do you really think that people would have preserved, exalted and regarded as holy works they knew to be nothing more than fiction? Do you get my point? These things happened. The events are real. The victory was real. The wonder and marvel of God is real.

So how does our text fit in with the victory we want to celebrate today? We are going to look at these words and simply celebrate the victory of Jesus. The reason I think we can do this is because I believe what Jesus said, “**These are the Scriptures that testify about me.”** Or again as Peter proclaims in Acts 10, **“All the prophets testify about him…”** Sometimes the words are direct revelation and sometimes the words are just “shadows”, something that happens and yet it relates to and points to Jesus and what He is all about. I believe we have just such a text here. That although this song was written about real events of the past this song was still a “shadow” of the victory that we would find in Jesus too! Our theme: **THE LORD HAS BECOME MY SALVATION!**

There is no doubt that this song is indeed a song of victory and celebration. The Israelites, because of the events of the Passover had been let go, that is freed from their slavery in Egypt by a distraught and humbled Pharaoh. But it took only a few days before Pharaoh forgot the devastation of the Passover and went off in pursuit of the slaves he now wanted back. It all lead to a spectacular set of events. The army chasing the Jewish nation. The Lord intervening for his people. The Lord opening up the sea that his people could cross over and be saved. Pharaoh, in complete foolishness ordering his army into that alley of water he saw the Jewish people use. It all came to a crashing and devastating end for Pharaoh. His army is drowned and the people of God are safe.

A great victory. The Lord’s victory! What is interesting about this victory is that there isn’t a single Israelite who can claim that he or she had any hand in what took place. It was completely the Lord’s victory in every way!

I believe that this victory was a foreshadowing of the victory of Jesus over and against the great enemies of our souls. Do we not see in the slavery, our slavery to sin? Do we not see in the Passover, the death of Jesus? In the blood of the lamb on the doorposts a foreshadowing of how Jesus would deliver us from death? And do we not see, as the army pursues and threatens the Jews, how Satan pursues and threatens us, though that army and its leader should have known not to mess with the Lord! And do we not see, as the Lord defeats this enemy of the people how our enemies are also defeated in Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior? I believe all those things are there. There for us to marvel at and there for us learn.

Listen again, if you would, to the words of our text only this time I am going to leave out any direct reference to Pharaoh’s army and its demise. Listen and tell me if you don’t hear the victory of Jesus.

**“I will sing to the Lord, for he is highly exalted. The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. He is my God and I will praise him, my father’s God, and I will exalt him. The Lord is a warrior; the Lord is his name. Your right hand, O Lord, was majestic in power. Your right hand, O Lord, shattered the enemy. In the greatness of your majesty you threw down those who opposed you. You unleashed your burning anger; it consumed them like stubble. Who among the gods is like you, O Lord? Who is like you—majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?”**

Now let’s just go through those words and highlight all the more how Jesus fits. First, did you notice that in this section we are speaking only of the LORD! That is the name of God that highlights for us God’s grace, mercy and love. This is the name of God that brings salvation and cares for souls. This is the God who mourns our sin and desires our salvation from sin. This is the God, the Lord who will take every step, make every move, use all his power and might that we might be saved. This is the great I AM, the very I AM that Jesus proclaimed he is.

Second, did you notice that this is a song of victory by grace! As this victory is sung about, do you hear anything about the army of man, about the power of positive thinking, about how God must rely and use our good works and human doings? Not a word! Everything that happens is the work of the Lord. Oh, it might be true, that man in his foolishness opposed, worked against, attacked and tried to overcome the Lord here, but all of those things are the working and failures of the enemy. Thus, when men shouted for the crucifixion of Jesus, God used that attack against Him to bring about the defeat of his enemy. As the justice of the courts of men failed to do what was good and right, God used that to bring about His justice and atone for the sins of the world. Whether we are talking God’s OT deliverance here or talking about Jesus’s victory over sin, death and the devil how it was carried out is the same. It was the Lord’s strength and power. It was the Lord’s greatness and majesty that overcame. All glory, all honor, all praise goes to God for his victory!

Third, did you note these words: **The Lord is a warrior; the Lord is his name? Your right hand, O Lord, was majestic in power. Your right hand, O Lord, shattered the enemy.** I pray that you grasp and understand immediately why I would point to those words. Who here, doesn’t grasp the unique and wonderful position that has been given to Jesus, well, a position that has always been the privilege of Jesus? Throughout the OT the phrase: “right hand” is used again and again to speak of how God delivers or how God will help his people. It is all related to the fact that Jesus is now proclaimed as He who sits at the “right hand of God.” We understand that to mean that God has put all things in heaven and on earth into the hands of Jesus. Jesus is the power, the authority, the hope, the wonder and marvel of all that is the goodness and love of God.

Note that this “right hand” in our text is called a “warrior.” Isn’t that was Jesus is? Has he not fought the battle and won the victory we could not? Has He not taken on sin and defeated the horror it would heap upon us? Has he not confronted death and yet He lives! And make no mistake. By death we not only mean the powers and darkness of eternal hell that Jesus bore for us, but we also mean the physical death that each of us must confront in our lives. Jesus won the victory even there. Wonderful and awesome is the simple declaration of Jesus for us: **“Because I live, you also will live!”**  Yes, God means to proclaim that Jesus the warrior has won!

And then if you would, just that final phrase of this song applied to Jesus. **Who among the gods is like you, O Lord? Who is like you—majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?”**

That last part is really Jesus isn’t it? Who is like you—majestic in holiness…Jesus the perfect Son of God, come to live the perfect life for us and then be the perfect sacrifice for our sins! That’s the whole point of Jesus! Awesome in glory! It didn’t look that way on the cross, but this morning, this day as Jesus lives and rules for all eternity what other phrase is better suited to Him? And working wonders? Every day that God, for the sake of Jesus, forgives your sins and grants you new life in His Son is the greatest work there is. What greater treasure? What bigger hope, this sure and certain salvation that God delivers in Jesus?

So I proclaim, **“Who among the gods is like you, O Lord?”** Name one other religion, any religion that proclaims what the Christian faith proclaims. Truth be told, you can’t! The only religion of the world where the Almighty God has done everything for your soul and salvation because of His love is the Christian faith. Oh it is true, there are those who obscure Christianity’s truth. They take this great marvel of God and twist it, bend it, deny it and trample it so that the wonder of salvation because God loves you is no longer seen, but that does not nullify the truth of Jesus. You want to save yourself by your works, take your best shot. I believe your best shot won’t even be anywhere near the target you should hit. Me, I will trust in Jesus and this great day. I know that in Jesus the victory is won. My enemies are defeated and God of his grace and love has saved me from my sins. There is no God, no message like that of Jesus and Him raised to life for you and me!

A victory song! A song that proclaims God is our salvation! Thank you, Lord, for this day. Amen.