

2021 Easter Greeting - Bishop John L. Hopkins

Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed. Alleluia!

One of my favorite Easter Hymns is *Thine be the Glory*. In three verses, the Resurrection our Lord Jesus Christ is proclaimed with all its power and joy.

The first verse describes what happened at the tomb:

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory, Thou o'er death hast won;
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded grave clothes where Thy body lay.

The second verse proclaims that Christ is alive!

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
Lovingly He greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
Let the church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing;
For her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting.

And the third verse calls us to a life of faith.

No more we doubt Thee, glorious Prince of life;
Life is naught without Thee; aid us in our strife;
Make us more than conquerors, through Thy deathless love;
Bring us safe through Jordan to Thy home above.

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory, Thou o'er death hast won;

The sure victory over sin and death enables us to live forgiven and free. Not intimidated by fears within us or threats beyond us, we can follow Jesus and serve others because He lives!

The Apostle Paul captured it in Romans 8, "It is Christ Jesus, who died, **yes**, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril or sword?

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life,

nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,

nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Hear this good news and give God the glory! Christ IS Risen! He is Risen indeed!