

Introductory thoughts

It is 80 years since people in London went out into the streets to celebrate the end of war in Europe (VE day). So perhaps our thoughts may turn to that day. It was a day of celebration for many but not for all.
Sadly wars continue.

What does victory mean?

If I ask you, "How are you?" you may reply, "Fine" but a more honest answer may be, "Struggling".

We face battles every day of different kinds.

Think now of the battles you face today and bring them to God in a moment of quiet.

Perhaps you are concerned about your health, your money, your home, your family, your friends, your carers.....

Commit these to God.

He knows, He understands our fears and worries.

Hymn

Fight the good fight with all thy might;
Christ is thy strength, and Christ thy right,
Lay hold on life, and it shall be
Thy joy and crown eternally.

Cast care aside, lean on thy guide.
His boundless mercy will provide;
Trust, and thy trusting soul shall prove
Christ is its life, and Christ its love.

Prayer

Heavenly Father,
we are in a world of struggles.
We see conflicts worldwide where one group seeks to dominate another.
Help people to see that victory is not in domination but in seeking the common good, that peace is the real victory.
In our own circle we know that harmony is difficult to achieve. Help us to work for the common good, knowing that peace is the real victory.
God of peace, hear our prayer.
Amen.

Bible Verses

*With God we will gain the victory,
and He will trample down our enemies.*
(Psalm 60 verse 12)

*This is the victory that has overcome the world,
even our faith.*
(1 John 5 verse 4)

*Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O death, is your sting?
The sting of death is sin.
Thanks be to God!
He gives us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ.*
(1 Corinthians 15 verses 55-57)

Thoughts

In the Old Testament we read stories of many battles fought by the Israelites as they tried to take possession of the promised land. Sometimes they were successful, other times they struggled. We see that when they trusted God they made progress. Often life is difficult.
We may be afraid of death (perhaps our own or that of someone close to us). If we trust Jesus we have His promise to be with us always, even when we walk in the valley of the shadow of death.
(Remember Psalm 23).

Hymn

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.

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

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.

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.

Blessing

May God the Father, who created you,
bless you today.

May God the Son, who showed His love in
walking the Earth and facing all its trials,
bless you today,
and may God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us to face all things,
bless you today.

Amen.



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