Preached at St. John's, Burlington, WI

Surely It Is God Who Saves Me

- 1. From His Anger
- 2. From My Enemies
- 3. From My Sadness
- 4. From My Silence

Introduction

- "Surely it is God...He will be my Savior." Fav refrain! As Psalm (hymnal). As anthem: sheet music, blue cover, sang as child, before hymnal. Back then, still new; people loved it, still do! I do.
- Refrain/melody based on Is 12, our lesson. Short chapter, 6 vs. But beautiful. Is has way of crafting beautiful words in meaningful way. GF, heard from Is 53 suffering servant of Lord, JC. Today is ES! That suffering servant is risen from dead, lives forever as our Savior. So we've gathered early hours of Easter morning to celebrate his resurrection with fellow s/b in Christ who love Jesus, are crazy enough to get up this early. Good to be here; this is time of day women found tomb empty; first mortals,



eyewitnesses of res. That morning, didn't have brass ensemble, church to worship in, hymnal to sing from. But if did, their song would be: "Surely...Savior." Our song, too. From 4 things.

From His Anger

• Vs. 1. Why angry? Because of sins; disobey will Creator, break coms. Makes angry; rightfully. But instead of taking anger out on us, on Son Jesus; punished him in our place; saw on GF. What means, "Your anger has turned away." Result, now we're forgiven! So like father embracing child, God embraces us in arms; "My child, you are mine forever; I love you." Easter proves that; res of Jesus gives us comfort of knowing sins forgiven, God not angry. And so, vs. 1. Surely...from his anger.

From My Enemies

- **Vs. 2** (basis of refrain). If defense, means must have enemies, from whom defended. What enemies? 3: sin, death, power of devil. Sin: Bible says w/o Christ, slaves to sin. Death: all going to die; w/o Jesus physical death would take to eternal death in hell. Devil: God's greatest enemy, hates what God loves; since God loves you, means Devil hates you. Roaring lion, devour.
- So, need strong defense, defender, warrior, stand up, protect us from enemies, defeat. Defender is JC. Defeated sin by never sining. Defeated death by rising from dead on Easter! Defeated Satan by accomplishing God's plan to save us. Jesus is defender, warrior, champion, Savior, God. Won victory against sin, death, power of devil. So vs. 2. Surely...from my enemies.

From My Sadness

• Vs. 3. "With joy." W/o Easter, no (true) joy! "Had Christ who once was slain...faith had been in vain." But reality, fact, central message of Christianity: "But now is Christ arisen." Easter means JC came back to life to save us from death; to this day, still alive as our Savior. Gives true joy.

- Especially when life is full of sadness. For many, life full sadness; maybe you. Some because:
 - o Lonely, abandoned, no one cares, forgotten, no one to turn to, friends forsaken, all alone.
 - o Death; miss someone who died (child, spouse, parent, friend); or know about to die. Gutwrenching, pit in stomach feeling of emptiness that death brings.
 - o Sin, ashamed, guilty. Know God forgives; think "if ever exception, me." Vivid memories of what done, so ashamed.
- If you have sadness in your life for one of these, or any other reason: today, Easter, vs. 3. Jesus once met sad woman drawing water from well; said, "Whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life" (Jn 4:14). God's love like water that quenches thirst. God loves you so much that love pictured as well of water, never runs dry, always brings joy. By raising Jesus, like God dipped his bucket into well of salvation, brings to you in sadness, "This for you; drink deeply." If you have sadness in life, never forget: Jesus is alive, he loves you. So vs. 3. Surely... from sadness.

From My Silence

• When God saves us from anger, enemies, sadness, that fills our hearts with so much joy, can't help but share that joy. So saves from silence. Listen to how not-silent Christians are. **Vs. 4-6**. Opposite of silence! What naturally happens when person comes to see Jesus as Savior from sin and death – that Christian says: "Want to thank God, tell others about him!" One week, guest pastor from Kenosha, Pr. Pagel: speak how thank God by telling others about him. I look forward to sermon & Bible class on evangelism because we can't be silent about this! Can't let people go on living without Jesus. We have to **vs. 5**. Surely...from silence.

In That Day – Every Day

• Phrase used 2x: **vs. 1a**. What day? Really no more imp day in history of world than Easter. On Easter, Jesus won, we saved. So when lesson says **vs. 1a**, because of Easter, every day is "**that day.**" Every day you live on earth is day for you to rejoice in Easter Gospel; not just ES, but every day, because every day: God loves you; you are redeemed child of God; your sins forgiven; salvation is won; heaven in future; Savior is alive. Easter affects your every day. So live life every day as Easter Christian. "Surely it is God…He will be my Savior," every day.

Isaiah 12:1-6

In that day you will say: "I will praise you, LORD. Although you were angry with me, your anger has turned away and you have comforted me.

² Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD himself, is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation."

³ With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

⁴ In that day you will say: "Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted. ⁵ Sing to the LORD, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world.

⁶ Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you."