

CHRISTIAN LIFE NOTES

OREGON DISTRICT LWML

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Easter Afterglow

I know that my Redeemer lives.

Job 19:25

Just a few short days ago, Christians all around the world celebrated Easter—the Festival of the Resurrection of our Lord. I'm sure many of the worship services included the singing of the hymn, *I Know that My Redeemer Lives*. This great hymn of faith was written by Samuel Medley who lived from 1738 to 1799, but the words to the hymn's title go back much further than that. Surprisingly, the man who is most known for having a great deal of patience, gave this Old Testament declaration of a belief that God would vindicate him in the face of the false accusations brought on him by his friends.

Job 19:25-27:

*I know that my Redeemer lives,
And that in the end he will stand upon the earth.
And after my skin has been destroyed,
Yet in my flesh I will see God;
I myself will see him
With my own eyes—I, and not another.
How my heart yearns within me!*

The resurrection of the dead was not a doctrine that was believed by many of the Jews, and is not taught with the same clarity that we see in the New Testament. However, Job is adamant in his belief that his death was not the end of his existence and he would someday see God with his own eyes.

Samuel Medley took the doctrine of redemption and added wonderful words of confidence, comfort, praise, and grace. Read through the verses of this hymn (or sing them) and look for words that describe God's character and the blessings we receive as we are members of his family. See if you can understand why this song is found in the "Christian Hope" section of the *Lutheran Book of Worship*.

1. I know that my Redeemer lives!
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, he lives, who once was dead;
He lives, my every-living head.
2. He lives triumphant from the grave
He lives eternally to save;
He lives all glorious in the sky;
He lives exalted there on high.
3. He lives to bless me with His love;
He lives to plead for me above;



He lives my hungry soul to feed;
He lives to help in time of need.

4. He lives to grant me rich supply;
He lives to guide me with His eye;
He lives to comfort me when faint;
He lives to hear my soul's complaint.
5. He lives to silence all my fears;
He lives to wipe away my tears;
He lives to calm my troubled heart;
He lives all blessings to impart.
6. He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;
He lives and loves me to the end;
He lives, and while He lives, I'll sing;
He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.
7. He lives and grants me daily breath;
He lives, and I shall conquer death;
He lives my mansion to prepare;
He lives to bring me safely there.
8. He lives, all glory to His name!
He lives, my Jesus, still the same;
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives;
I know that my Redeemer lives!

As we bask in the afterglow of Easter, we remember that Jesus' resurrection from the dead is the culmination of His work on earth which guarantees our own resurrection. His shed blood paid the required penalty for sin. All who believe in Him have been redeemed. His resurrection was the ultimate victory over Satan who had determined to keep this from happening. Because Christ lives, we, too have eternal life with Him.

Every Sunday is a celebration of Easter Sunday. In fact the first Easter Sunday—the day of Jesus' resurrection— is the reason we now worship on Sundays instead of the Old Testament Sabbath (Sundown Friday night to sundown Saturday night). Perhaps we should sing this hymn of hope (confidence) more often that once a year during our Easter celebrations as we celebrate the life of blessing we have through our faith in our Savior, Jesus. (J.C.)

The Christian Life Committee