

*Out of the darkest chord that had ever been played,
He created the most beautiful theme in His symphony¹.*

We come together here to participate in an absolutely world-shaking event that directly impacts our very souls. Because of mankind's sin, the human race seemed doomed to the darkness of death. Then, in the words of Louis Markos, "history took a sudden and unexpected turn. God came down and restored what was broken"². And the light dawned to conquer the darkness³.

What we call the Lord's Supper is meant to be an act of true worship. It is also called the "Eucharist", from words meaning "good grace"⁴. It relates to a cosmic death spiral in which we are inextricably caught up, from which there seemed to be no way out, and yet one is miraculously provided. J.R.R. Tolkien liked to call this sort of thing a eucatastrophe – "where the good end rises up, miraculously, out of what seemed, at first, to be defeat and death"⁵. Consider the expression about "snatching victory from the jaws of defeat"!

The Israelites, escaping from Egypt, found themselves trapped against the Red Sea, with apparently no escape. But God provided a dry path through the Red Sea and led His people to safety⁶. He has accomplished a similar salvation with His followers, through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We celebrate this as a great victory of Love that propels us through the valley of the shadow of death⁷!

Consider for a moment the flip side of the eucatastrophe. Adonijah, for example, was the oldest son of David when he became too old to reign as king. He decided to take matters into his own hands and declare himself king! What a glorious moment for him! He was celebrating his great victory when word came that David had anointed Solomon as the true king; he and his followers then had to run for refuge⁸. I think of Satan in the same light, confident that he had beaten God by having His Son killed, but then imagine his horror when Christ rose from the grave!

This victory is not yet complete, for as we know Satan is still working to draw us away from God. Adonijah also continued to pursue his purpose, but then lost his life because of it⁹. Satan will also be permanently put out of action some day!

In this communion we commemorate what Christ went through to gain the ultimate victory, in its magnitude and completeness, and as we worship, we put our faith and hope in Him. The author Marcos concludes: "the Bible has a Happy Ending, but it is one that is suffered and fought for"¹⁰.

1. This Beautiful Mess: Practicing the Presence of the Kingdom of God; Mckinley, Rick; p.54
3. John 1:5
2. On the Shoulders of Hobbits: The Road to Virtue with Tolkien and Lewis; Markos, Louis; p.126.
4. Note: the word does not incorporate the word "Christ", even though the event is all about Him
5. On the Shoulders of Hobbits: The Road to Virtue with Tolkien and Lewis; Markos, Louis; p.36
6. Exodus 14
7. Psalm 23:4
8. 1 Kings 1
9. 1 Kings 2:13ff

10. On the Shoulders of Hobbits: The Road to Virtue with Tolkien and Lewis; Markos, Louis;
p.,130

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