

Third Sunday of Easter  
April 10, 2016  
Revelation 5:11-16  
The Song of the Angels in Honor of the Lamb  
Rev. George Ferch

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus,

Stop! Look! Listen! Before you do what? We learned we are to do those things “before you cross the street.” Easter season is a good time to apply those exhortations to a different crossing; crossing from this world to eternity. It is a journey we all are on without exception.

The risen and reigning Christ gave that vision first to the apostle John on the island of Patmos in the Aegean Sea. John stopped, looked and listened so he would not miss a single element of Christ’s Easter victory, our Easter victory. The Holy Spirit has preserved for us this glorious vision of the other side.

We not only see but hear. We hear **The Song of the Angels in Honor of the Lamb**. It is directed toward the Father and to the Lamb of the throne. It contains seven words of praise.

This portion of the Living One’s revelation to John comes right after Jesus’ command that John write the entire thing down for the seven churches in Asia Minor. John looked and beheld the open door to heaven. The risen Savior invited his old friend, one of Jesus’ closest disciples during his earthly life, to take a peek and see the eternal kingdom that awaited John and awaits all Christians. Stephen saw into heaven just before he died. Some believers today say they see into heaven as God takes their souls to him in death never to return to this world.

God the Father was sitting on his throne. With the Father was the Lamb, Jesus Christ, the perfect Passover sacrifice. Surrounding the throne were countless angels. The angels were with “the living creatures and the elders.” The song of the angels was in honor of the Lamb. He had triumphed over sin and death and hell. Jesus Christ sat on God’s throne not only as the Son of God but also as the holy Son of Man.

In earlier verses we read that the creatures and the elders had begun a triumph song to the Lamb on the throne. We come into the revelation as those countless angels join the song. In a way, just as we join the glorious song of “all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven” when we sing the Sanctus prior to receiving Holy Communion. Then, the rest of creation joins the song of the angels. John wrote, “Then I heard every creature in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and on the sea, and all that is in them singing.”

What a glorious sight and sound of our Easter victory in our eyes and ears. It is the song of our new life in Christ for all eternity before the throne of God with the angels. We see ourselves as part of this heavenly choir surrounding God on his throne in the center. This salvation is ours because of our Savior Jesus Christ. He bore our sins in his body on the tree and the Father raised him to life for our justification.

This song of the angels in honor of the Lamb is a doxology. It is a song of praise. It contains seven words of praise. Seven in Revelation is the number of completeness. It represents God’s perfect and complete plan of salvation the Lamb accomplished by his redemption. “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise.”

Lyrics of a song tell the story. A good song writer bares his or her soul with words. That is why Merle Haggard who passed away last week was such a gifted musician. The angels’ song in honor of the Lamb bares their holiness in service to God’s will. We use the same words to bear our hearts and souls in songs of praise to the Lamb for being the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Notice the angels sing that all of these qualities belong to the Lamb not us; they belong to the Redeemer not the redeemed.

The power of forgiveness and salvation belong to Jesus Christ, the Lamb. The Greek word is the root of our word dynamite. The Lamb holds all riches. He is the possessor of all things as God and Man. The Lamb is the wisdom of God; the thought, the plan that saved us sinners who cannot save ourselves. His is the strength, one aspect of his power by which he carried out his miracles.

The honor is his alone. We owe Jesus Christ the highest regard and esteem for having carried out the outstanding work of delivering us from sin, death and the power of the devil. All glory is his as the holy God. Blessings are his. We praise and bless him for his faithfulness to obey the law in our place and bear the punishment that brought us peace.

We get a foretaste of the song of the angel's in one of our communion liturgies where the pastor says, "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory forever and ever." My eight year old granddaughter loves to play Hymn 714 in the worship supplement, "The Lamb." I'll close with the last verse of that hymn. It is glorious to speak in time, it will be even more glorious when we sing it with the angels in heaven, "He rose, he rose, My heart with thanks now overflows. His song prolong 'Till every heart to him belong. Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me his own! The Lamb is reigning on his throne." Amen.

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