

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Acts 9:36-43

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (v1)

Revelation 7:9-17

John 10:22-30

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, & work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord, who lives & reigns with you & the Holy Spirit, one God, now & forever. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Revelation 7:9-17

⁹After this I looked, & there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes & peoples & languages, standing before the throne & before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, & to the Lamb!" ¹¹And all the angels stood around the throne & around the elders & the four living creatures, & they fell on their faces before the throne & worshiped God, ¹²singing, "Amen! Blessing & glory & wisdom & thanksgiving & honor & power & might be to our God forever & ever! Amen." ¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, & where have they come from?" ¹⁴I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes & made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵For this reason they are before the throne of God, & worship him day & night within his temple, & the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. ¹⁶They will hunger no more, & thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; ¹⁷for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, & he will guide them to springs of the water of life, & God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. Read *John 10:22-30* & *Acts 9:36-43*; what connections do you find between them & *Revelation 7*? Hint: look for themes, parallel ideas, inversions, reversals, similarities, extensions, metaphors, actions, vocabulary, grammar, etc.
2. Read *Hebrews 9*; what connections do you find between it & *vv13-14*? How does the red blood make them white?

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. In Holy Baptism you are "marked with the cross of Christ & sealed with the Holy Spirit forever;" how does this equip you for life's "great ordeals"? Does it prevent them? Does it act like insurance to recover losses?
4. Palm branches are symbol of martyrdom; how would your understanding of baptism change if we gave palm branches to the newly baptized- even babies? Consider *Luke 19:35-39, 23:1-4, 11, 36-38*

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. The promises of *vv15-17* offer strong encouragement for the tribulations of everyday life; how can you make them a reality in someone else's life?
6. *Revelation* tells of our worship in God's coming eternal kingdom; how does this challenge & correct the world's imagination about heaven?

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Fourth Sunday of Easter

05.08.22

Series: Worship- Heaven on Earth

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Salvation From, By, & For

My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: For this reason they are before the throne of God...
for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
& he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
& God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.” (v15a, 17)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Jesus says, I am the good shepherd.

I know my own & my own know me. (*John 10:14*)

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