

No shout of praise,
only a horrible groan
of sorrow and loss.

Thank God we're not
in this battle on our
own; the Lamb has
shed his blood for us.
In his blood my robes
are made white. I live
by his power and
authority; I kill that
horrid beast – my
selfish desires. I kill
of that thought that
I'm right and you're
wrong. I reject that
hideous notion that
'I'm worth it' and
replace it with a
shout of joy as I
receive what I could
never be worth, the
life of Jesus, the love
of God.

I praise God today
that we have this
wonderful future to
begin living in now,
reaping the fullness
of this life when
Jesus returns. I
praise God today
because in Jesus, by
the Spirit, we are

before the throne of
God and we serve
him day and night
through our lives; for
we are his temple.
And as his temple we
are a place of prayer;
that's we're in a
conversational
relationship with
Jesus; we can follow
his voice.

I praise God that
when Jesus returns
we'll enjoy the
fullness of 'Never
again hungering. The
sun won't beat down
on us with scorching
heat. For the Lamb at
the centre of the
thrown is our
shepherd; who will
lead us to springs of
living water. (The
Holy Spirit is often
described as living
water) And God, our
loving Father, will
wipe away every tear
from your eyes. (Rev.
7:15-17)

Today I praise God
that in Jesus I've
begun living in this

relationship. I invite
Jesus to heal me,
showing me where I
need to repent and
asking him to give
me his power and
authority to do it. I
definitely want to
repent and walk
Jesus' way. Today I
praise God that
Jesus has given his
life for me that I might
live knowing him, in a
relationship of love
and affection today,
tomorrow and
always.

Let's all be living a
shout of praise, as
our daily living
worship this God,
taking him at his
word, doing what he
says, to his praise,
glory and honour.

1 November 2020

PRAISE GOD

Revelation 7:9-17



In John's letter of
Revelation various
scenes of worship
are depicted, the
reading we have
today is one of them.
It describes the
people who are
worshipping as being
from every nation,
tribe, people and
language.

I like that description
because it obviously
can include me.
We're not excluded;
the door is open for
us to be in this group
of people.

They were standing
before the throne of
the Lamb. In
Revelation the Lamb
is an image of Jesus.
Jesus is the
sacrificial lamb who
was slain that we
might be forgiven.

What a wonderful
king we worship, into
whose hands we
place our lives. He

doesn't exploit us; ala
what you hear about
the king of Thailand
at the present,
exploiting his position
and his people for his
personal gain. That's
not our king; Jesus
does the opposite.
He gives his life that
we might gain; gain
life with God, as his
children.

In one sense today
as we come together
for worship we are
joining this great
multitude for we too
stand before the
throne of The Lamb.
We too worship
Jesus as our King,
the one who rules our
lives, the one in
whom we trust, the
one we look to for life
and salvation.

The people are
pictured wearing
white robes; white
because they have
been washed in the
blood of the Lamb.

Jesus has washed
away their sin; he
has clothed them in
his righteousness.

This reminds me of
Jesus parable about
the wedding feast
where one man is
found not wearing the
wedding robes and is
removed. That's a
picture of trying to
stand before God in
our own
righteousness.
Standing before God
based on what we
have done, according
to what we want and
figure we deserve.
Clothed in my own
self-importance
leaves me very cold
toward God.

The multitude are
clothed in white
robes. They stand
before God, purely
because of Jesus
sacrifice. A pure act
of grace. Shear gift. It
is shear gift that the
Lamb creates a

Christ Church Lutheran

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am
Pastor: Tim 0427326553



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

relationship of love and affection, where all fear is gone, replaced by God's mercy.

Today we also join that great multitude, for we can only come into God's presence through the blood of the Lamb. We too are washed clean by the sacrifice of the Lamb, the sacrifice of Jesus. So we too, in Jesus, are clothed in white, not because of our perfect lives but because of his.

Because of Jesus sacrifice we are clothed in his righteousness, and it is in that we get to live and grow and mature. Jesus' righteousness heals us, ministers to our hurt, our disappointment, our frustration, our anger at others. Jesus sacrifice is healing us, way beyond anything we could ever hope to accomplish. Praise God for that.

And it is praise that we hear coming from the mouths of this multitude. In fact 'they cried out in a loud voice'. Why wouldn't you want to shout from the roof tops all that Jesus has done? He has forgiven, healed for life live in God's loving presence,

We praise God because he has come to save.

where people get to love one another, in his power and authority. That certainly is something to shout out loud.

"Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb". (Rev. 7:10)

Again this is what we join in today. We join that multitude in shouting our praises to God; our God who sits on the throne and to Jesus the Lamb.

We praise God because he has come to save us. That implies there is something to be saved from.

Sometimes I think I need to be saved from myself. Luther talked of Sin, Death and the Devil. The simple reality is that we are in a battle much too big for us to win on our own. Left to my own devices I'd be swallowed alive.

Thank God we're not left to ourselves; we have God fighting for us. In Jesus, we're on his side. He is our king, the one who fights for us, giving his life for us.

Again that isn't just something in the distant future; that's what we are invited to be living in today.

After all, Jesus, today, right now, is head of his community of faith. Jesus is King of kings and Lord of lords, right now. Right now I

am a citizen of heaven, because of Jesus sacrifice.

Right now we get to praise God, to praise the Lamb, because of their great love and mercy toward us. Because they have come to save us; save us for life, life lived to the full in their presence.

Do you notice that if I'm joining that multitude in worshipping God, right now, I'm also join with all those

people of faith who have already go to be with God. In a way I can't fully explain, when we gather for worship, we join with all our loved one, who have died believing in Jesus. We join with them in this wonderful celebration; this wonderful celebration of Lamb whose blood has washed us clean.

It is important to notice that this great multitude are the people; "who have come out of the great

tribulation." (Rev. 7:14) If you are expecting life to be a piece of cake, think again. We are coming out of the 'Great Tribulation'.

Like it or not, you're in the fight of your life. Temptations abound. At every corner the devil and his mates are

Like it or not, you're in the fight of your life.

tempting you to abandon Jesus.

I mean why would you follow a lamb. Have you ever seen any sporting club use the symbol of a lamb to strike fear into the opposition. You've got to be joking.

The devil is continually tempting us to look to the strong and powerful. We are tempted to side with the guy with the sword who killed the lamb; he looks like the winner. We

are lured by all that looks successful, beautiful, powerful, desirable. In all this the devil is blinding us to the true beauty and power of the Lamb who was slain for us.

You're in the battle of your life, because it is a battle for your life. It is a battle for the

lives of those you love. We are in a life and death battle, like it or not. And it is a battle you'll lose if you fight in your own authority and power.

You'll lose. You won't be found in that great multitude praising God, you'll be lamenting, wishing things could be different, but with no way to change. Trapped in your missed opportunities. Lamenting your resentment and rejection of others, wishing you could rekindle love but with no love to be found. Alone. Lost. Dejected. No hope.