

Mount Zion, April, 2016  
Good Shepherd, April, 2022  
***Revelation 5:11-14***

I like to sing but I don't sing well anymore. I can't read music, so my singing ability is limited. How about you? Can you sing? The choir of Good Shepherd can always use more voices.

Men, imagine that you are on a trip with your family. There is a song you like on the radio and you begin to hum along. But one of your children says, "Dad, you can't even hum in the right key!"

There are a lot of good singers in this congregation. But I imagine there are some people here today who can't carry a tune even with help from their strongest of friends.

This morning, whether you are a good singer or not, God is inviting you to be a part of His choir. Let's listen carefully as John invites us to

### ***Join The Heavenly Choir***

In these verses, the apostle John was given a glimpse of heaven. John was living in exile on the island of Patmos because he taught about Jesus, his Savior. John was worried about the future of the church. Jesus allowed John to see a vision of heaven. In this vision -

- *John heard the voices of thousands upon thousands of angels.*
- *The angels and elders (believers) encircled the throne of God.*
- *They were singing praises to the Lamb of God who was sacrificed for the sins of the world.*
- *All attention was on the Lord at the center of the throne.*
- *All were thanking Jesus for saving sinful mankind.*
- *What an awesome sight that must have been!*

One day we will be part of that heavenly choir. Jesus died to pay for our sins, all of them! Because Jesus died, we will live forever in heaven. Jesus is alive! The end of our life is now the doorway

to heaven. We can be happy! But -

- *It's hard to be happy when we are dying of cancer.*
- *It's hard to be happy with huge medical bills.*
- *It's hard to be happy when we have family problems.*
- *It's hard to be happy when inflation is high and we struggle to pay our bills.*
- *It's hard to be happy when someone we love dies.*
- *It's hard to be happy when we are on our deathbed in pain.*
- *Sometimes we feel like losers rather than winners.*
- *Losers aren't happy people.*

But we are winners because Jesus won the victory on the first Easter. He won – we win! Jesus promises to be with us and help as in this life. Our life is now a warm up for heaven. We are going through training so we can sing our hearts out in the halls of heaven.

We need to remind ourselves of the coming future. We need to stop making excuses to skip church on Wednesday or Sunday. Many of the things that keep us away from worship would never keep us away from our work, school, sports or vacations. The worst thing that can happen to us is that the message of the Jesus dying on the cross and rising from the dead, becomes as boring as eating warmed up leftovers the day after Easter.

If we are not in awe of the Lamb of God and what He has done for us, God help us, God forgive us! Look upon the Lamb of God who suffered and died because of us and then join the heavenly choir and sing His praises.

Jesus deserves our worship. The heavenly choir sang, Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise.

Jesus deserves all *power*: He set aside His power when He became a human being. He walked into the court room of Pilate and allowed Himself to be mistreated and then murdered at

Calvary. When Jesus ascended to glory, the Father gave Jesus power over all things. Jesus has all power right now. No matter who is in the White House, Jesus has all power!

Jesus deserves all *wealth*. Everything belongs to our Lord. Everything. Jesus became poor so that we would become spiritually wealthy. Every gift we bring to our Lord is an expression of thanks for all that Jesus has given to us: spiritually and physically.

The Lamb of God is worthy of all *honor* and *glory* and *praise*. Our God is worthy of the best we can give Him on a Sunday morning: from the building we worship in, to the hymns that we sing, to the music the choir sings, to the sermon that is preached, to the candles and paraments on the altar.

Our whole life is nothing but a song of praise to the Lamb of God. Christian parents who worship with their children and make sure their children are in Sunday School are singing songs of praise to the risen Lamb of God.

- *Those who read Scripture or listen carefully to sermons are singing praises to God.*
- *Those who teach Sunday School and in our pre-school are...*
- *Those who sing the liturgy and the hymns during the service...*
- *Those who serve on the Council...*
- *The members of the LOGS of Good Shepherd...*
- *Those who set up communion for worship are...*
- *Christians who live Christian lives in school or at work or at home are...*

Our text closes by saying, To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!

In a musical piece, there is a crescendo. The song builds in intensity until it reaches a climax. In the heavenly songs of praise there are crescendos, too. The moment you came to faith in

Jesus, you started singing a new song of praise to God. As we grow in faith, our praise begins to build and build until God takes us home and we join the heavenly choir and begin to sing with the angels and the believers around the throne of God.

So this is really a recruitment service. We are recruiting for the choir in heaven. It doesn't matter if you are a great singer or you can hardly carry a tune. All that matters is that you know the Lamb, who He is and what He has done for you. Jesus is the Lamb. He died for your sins so that you could be a part of the heavenly choir. He is the One who deserves the very best we have to offer in this life.

We are not wasting our time serving our Lord. Jesus has won the victory! And because Jesus has won, we are winners! Let's keep reminding each other that we are praising the King of kings. One day we will join the multitude in heaven and we will see the awesome throne of the mighty God and see our Savior face to face. And then we will sing an awesome song of glorious victory!

And to this all creation says a loud, AMEN!

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