



Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church  
*Pastor Terry's Thoughts of the Week*

## **The Water of Life... Revelation!**

“Who’s that yonder dressed in red?  
Must be the children that Moses led.  
Who’s that yonder dressed in white?  
Must be the children of the Israelite.

Why don’t you sit down?

Lord, I can’t sit down.

Why don’t you sit down?

Lord, I can’t sit down.

Why don’t you sit down?

Lord, I can’t sit down.

Just got to heaven, gotta look around.”

That little song may not contain all the glorious theology of John or the staid theology of Luther, but what it does do is give some rhythm and delight to people who are suffering on earth. Vision and delight that held slave people together and helped them identify with held down people who had gone on

before them. This little ditty – which has now become more of a camp song – gave hope and promise to people who saw nothing more than drudgery and danger, beatings and separations in their immediate future.

But God’s future was their hope and this is what held them together for their day to day existence.

So, what does it all mean for us now? We are not held in slavery. We are not being oppressed. But among us there are those who are abused, who feel the weight of psychological depression, economic depression and other trials we know nothing about. There are those who are quietly enduring pain and not sharing it with any of us. There are those who are finding that getting their lives on track is difficult beyond what they expected. There are young people who are confused about life in general but also about everyday decisions that are a lot more difficult than most of us ever had to make.

That’s today. What does it mean? Are we going to be those who are dressed in white? If so, what does it mean for today and our relationship with those whose pain we know nothing about?

What it means is that we pray for them and for all those we may or may not know who are experiencing difficulties in life. We do “supportive” stuff (that ‘blessed to be a blessing’ thing) when we figure out what will be supportive as opposed to interfering! We listen carefully when people speak, for often we cloak our own pain in carefully chosen words – but an astute listener can hear the reality. And for those of us who do have pain in our lives, we share what we feel we want to and put all the rest in God’s good and loving hands.

“Who’s that yonder dressed in blue?

Must be the children who’re coming through!”

Dressed in blue? At one time that probably referred to the Union Army, but come today we can adopt that “blueness” into our own lives. We are coming through. Maybe we don’t feel like it, but know that with God’s help and favor, we

are walking the road to the freedom of heaven. On the way, we shine with the blessings God has given us. Praise the Lord!

**CMK**

-- Week of April 29, 2007