

Fourth Sunday of Easter ~ 4/29

"They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." (Revelation 7:16-17)

Where would we be without water? The truth is that we wouldn't be at all. In fact water is the constant variable that all life must have in order to exist. In this part of the world we take water for granted. The mere fact that we have so much water around us, clouds how vitally important this gift is to all life. To understand how sacred water is perhaps we should go to Haiti where a family of seven lives from one bucket of water per week. Or perhaps we could journey to a country where the color of the water that the people drink is brown. To visit there is to understand that the vitality of life is undeniably linked to the consumption of water. And if we cannot travel to foreign lands then perhaps we could go to the Navajo nation near Crownpoint, New Mexico. There we could walk the parched earth and know why life in that area is so very hard. We probably will never understand our need for water unless we are forced to live with a greatly reduced supply. We will also never understand why the poor nations of the world resent our wasteful water practices.

In this reading from Revelation the author explicitly states that the Lamb will provide the water of life for those in need. He will refresh them with water that has the power to sustain them and they will not be upset anymore. The author of this reading lived in a region of the world where water was a scarce and precious commodity. He is aware that his readers would understand what a great gift it would be to have flowing waters always available. They would understand and appreciate the symbolic message that was being put forth. The question is, can we? Can we truly understand the importance of the symbolism when we have water all around us and we never go to bed thirsty?

Those of us living with plentiful water must work backwards from symbolic level to practical. We must touch our thirst for acceptance and our longing to be free from depression to understand a thirst for God. And just maybe it will be from this level that we will begin to empathize with those who do not have adequate water for healthy living. Three fourths of the world is waiting for us to make the connection.

Questions for Reflection

- 1. Have I ever lived with inadequate water supplies? How much do I appreciate the water that is available to me?*
- 2. What are the areas in my life where the Living Waters of Love have not flowed for awhile?*

Prayer: Provident God, give us Your living water so that we will be moved to share the natural resource of water with the populations of the world.