

still waters

home church studies

Psalm 107.1-3,17-22 [Worship]

1 O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever. 2 Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, those he redeemed from trouble 3 and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

17 Some were sick through their sinful ways, and because of their iniquities endured affliction; 18 they loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the gates of death. 19 Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress; 20 he sent out his word and healed them, and delivered them from destruction. 21 Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind. 22 And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.

Consider:

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The literary and theological movement of the Ephesians text has certain parallels to Israel's death and resurrection. Here, we who were dead under the ruler of the world are now raised with Christ and made to sit in heavenly places. Our life is the pattern of death, resurrection, and ascension (the latter hints at an authority

[Words]

over the powers here and now that we are much too slow to exercise).

John, in his fashion, compresses the movement into a single ironic action: being lifted up (3:14). It's all one for him, a simultaneous mystery: hoisted on the cross and raised in glory. And all of it, beginning to end, is the love of God for this world. The messengers and the movement. The ache and the song. The sending of Christ.



[Scripture]

Ephesians 2. 1-10

1 You were dead through the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. 3 All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us 5 even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ--by grace you have been saved-- 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God-- 9 not the result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Also read, [John 3.14-21](#)