

# Second Hand Preacher

*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter*

April 17, 2016

**Revelation 7:9, 14b-17**

On Good Shepherd Sunday, St. John gives us a vision of a lamb. Now I am not a sheep expert, but I don't normally think of lambs as leaders. They make noise constantly and are not seen as one of nature's most intelligent creatures. Yet it is the weak that leads us, the sacrifice that sets us free. The gentle lamb leads us in a world that can sometimes be so hard. The lamb was sacrificed by Israelites to deliver them from the clutches of the Egyptians. We as Christians see Jesus as the lamb sacrificed once and for all.

What gave me the most hope is that the lamb appears to the multitudes; more than anyone can count. I believe that we as a Church are represented there. Stemming from the Church, salvation is possible for us. We will probably not be called to wash our robes clean with the blood of the lamb. We should be ready if the need arises. This is what I believe it means to be in the multitude.

Christianity is not a spectator sport. We must sacrifice; dying to Christ and rising with him, so that we may have eternal life. We do not earn our salvation, but God wants us to be active. We are called to make the lamb known and loved. We are to worship. This is not just putting in 50 minutes a week of passively sitting in the pew. Although, isn't it sad that some don't even do that. We are to sing and pray, to be practicing full and active participation. We are to read the readings ahead of time, so they are familiar and we can totally engage in them. The Word of God shouldn't just merely enter our ears but take hold of our heart. We need to stay connected to the lamb by prayer and fellowship with family, friends, and, if it should arise, people we just meet. The cross is vertical with our connection to God and horizontal showing our connection to others.