

Heavenly Worship

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Worship is happening in Heaven 24/7 and on Sundays, as we kneel before the Altar at church, we can participate in that Worship. This is the ideal, anyway. And yesterday, it was my experience (or at least I had a little bit of it) We were able to kneel directly in front of the Table. That helped me to focus (we usually end up at the far end of the rail). And there were no small and squirming children to distract me either, so I was able to concentrate.

4 ... I looked, [in my spirit while kneeling] and there in heaven a door stood open! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, 'Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.'

Many Dispensationalists believe Rev 4:4 describes the future Rapture. I believe it describes worship as it is in heaven now and what is supposed to happen in our worship on earth now. God invites us to enter His heavenly presence. He does not come down- we go up. We do that "in the spirit". This is why concentration, focusing, is so essential. We can ascend in our spirit into the heavenlies, even as we kneel at the Communion railing in our churches. This is what happens-

2 At once I was in the spirit, and there in heaven stood a throne, with one seated on the throne. 4 Around the throne are twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones are twenty-four elders, dressed in white robes, with golden crowns on their heads. 5 Coming from the throne are flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and in front of the throne burn seven flaming torches, which are the seven spirits of God; 6 ...Around the throne, and on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, 8 ...Day and night without ceasing they sing, 'Holy, holy, holy, the Lord God the Almighty, who was and is and is to come.'

To me the affective high point of the Liturgy is during the "Great Thanksgiving" when we join voices just before Communion and sing, "Holy, Holy, Holy, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory". it is the one time in the Service when I raise my hands. Kneeling, in my imagination I come before the Throne with its smells, sights and sounds and bow before my Lord in fellowship with the Saints already in the Holy Place above.

9 ...the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to the one who is seated on the throne, who lives for ever and ever, 10 the twenty-four elders fall before the one who is seated on the throne and worship the one who lives for ever and ever; ... singing, 11 'You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.'

Heavenly worship, indeed! It is what I go to church for!