

Where's Your Chair?

Exodus 15 1-10



The waters saw you, O God; the waters saw you and were afraid;
the depths also were troubled.
Psalm 77:16

Praising:

I'll praise him while he lends me
breath;
and when my voice is lost in
death,
praise shall employ my nobler
powers:
my days of praise shall ne'er be
past,
while life and thought and being
last,
or immortality endures.

Reading:

Exodus 15:1-10
A song of praise

It feels right that after such a momentous sequence of events there should be a pause to take spiritual stock. The Lord's deliverance of his people needs to be celebrated, and what better way than in song. Effectively it's a

musical interlude, presented as Moses and Israel's offering of worship and gratitude for God's miraculous intervention. The hymn takes care to give God his rightful place, acclaiming the Lord not just as God of the current Israelite community, but as God of Israel's ancestors going way back. To portray the Lord's saving action on Israel's behalf, the poet uses the ancient Near Eastern metaphor of the Divine Warrior. The language is also influenced by an ancient myth about a divine battle against sea – sea representing chaotic power hostile to God's rule. Basically it's a moment to give God the glory.

Listening:

Praying:

Lord so often we plough straight on to the next thing

- we fail to see where your hand has been at work, supplying, steering and strengthening
- we fail to offer the gratitude, the honour and the glory which are your holy due
- we fail to share with others our experience of the salvation Christ has won for us

Father: for the times I've not stopped to thank you for watching my back, for making-good my mistakes, for digging me out of the hole I made for myself – and all the rest, forgive me. Amen

Doing:

Monday, 15 August 2016