

June 5, 2022

*Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing!
For the LORD has comforted his people and will have compassion on his afflicted.*
Isaiah 49:13 ESV

We soar across the green meadow toward the sky of blue with white, billowy puffs hovering above the mountaintops. The music crescendos, and the entire Alpine scene bursts forth in song as Julie Andrews twirls to take in the surrounding beauty and adds her voice to the symphony. “The Sound of Music” has perhaps one of the most recognizable opening film scenes ever, and I can hardly contain the compulsion within to burst forth and join the rapturous song: “The hills are alive with the sound of music, with songs they have sung for a thousand years.”

Spring in the Midwest is equally compelling for me. The crocuses in the pastures poke their purple petals through the snow, confident their time for singing has come. The hills above the farmsteads of my ancestors in the Sheyenne River Valley seem to erupt into song and invite my heart and voice to join their chorus of new life!

The cemetery where many of my ancestors are buried overlooks this same valley. Someday the graves resting atop those hills will burst open, and the renewed voices of the new creation will join the jubilant song. Then all creation will unite in the most joyous and blessed sound of music.

But for now, we wait. Through the long winter of our temporal life, it sometimes seems God has forgotten us. But our compassionate God has not forgotten His people. “The biblical hope is not simply redemption *from* the world but redemption *of* the world.”¹ The LORD comforts His people because He has redeemed them, and He longs to gather more into His fold. “The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance” (2 Peter 3:9 ESV). So we work and wait for God’s boundless love and salvation to extend to the uttermost, to the end of the earth (Isaiah 49:6b).

Then someday in the New Creation, our hearts will overflow with the sound of music for God’s infinite greatness and grace. We will unite our voices with the mountains, and all creation will sing in glorious and perfect harmony in praise to the LORD our God, the King of kings and LORD of lords, not only for a thousand years, but for all eternity.

Mrs. Marian Christopherson
AFLC Parish Education Director
Plymouth, Minnesota

AFLC Promotion for June is Parish Education

¹ R. Reed Lessing, *Isaiah 40-55* (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2011), 485.