

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Acts 11:1-18

Psalm 148

The splendor of the Lord is over earth & heaven. (v13)

Revelation 21:1-8

John 13:31-35

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness & peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord, who lives & reigns with you & the Holy Spirit, one God, now & forever. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Revelation 21:1-8

¹Then I saw a new heaven & a new earth; for the first heaven & the first earth had passed away, & the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, & God himself will be with them; ⁴he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning & crying & pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." ⁵And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy & true." ⁶Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha & the Omega, the beginning & the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. ⁷Those who conquer will inherit these things, & I will be their God & they will be my children. ⁸But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the polluted, the murderers, the fornicators, the sorcerers, the idolaters, & all liars, their place will be in the lake that burns with fire & sulfur, which is the second death."

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. What do the following add to the Revelation reading? See *Isaiah 65:17-25; Matthew 24:35; John 1:1-5, 10-14; Romans 1:29-32, 8:19-21; 1 Corinthians 13:12; Colossians 3:5; remember to check surrounding verses for additional context*
2. Consider vv5-6; how has God already started this work? See *Matthew 4:17, 10:7; Mark 1:15; Luke 10:9-11; 19:11; 21:31; Acts 14:8-21; 2 Corinthians 4:13-18, 5:17; Ephesians 4:17-25; Colossians 3:1-17; 1 Peter 1:23*

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. What do *Exodus 34:6-7; 1 Corinthians 6:9-20; Galatians 5:16-25; 1 Peter 3:8-17* add to vv7-8 above?
4. Statements like those in v8 are hard for us to hear in a "Christian country." Since the beginning of the Baby Boomer generation to now, we have rapidly changed from a culture familiar to Christianity to one openly opposed to it (even if we do not face persecution). How do the cross-references in #3 help you- or not- to make the adjustment? What behaviors of your own need to be confessed & forgiven? See *Small Catechism: 10 Commandments; Confession/Office of the Keys, available bookofconcord.org*

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. What makes this passage (esp. vv2-7) such a good reading for funerals, especially considering many, if not most, of those attending are not faithful Christians? How is it an "evangelistic" Bible story? See *2 Corinthians 1:3-5*
6. Consider the Revelation readings of the Easter season: *1:4-8; 5:11-18; 7:9-17; 21:1-7; 21:10, 22--22:5; 22:12-17, 20-21*. Notice the jump from ch7 to ch21. How do they show & tell us that the main themes of Revelation are hope, worship, & eternal life, not politics, wars, fear, etc. as Jesus warns in *Matthew 24:4-8*? Also, remember the ancient Creeds reject millennialism ("His kingdom will have no end") and dispensationalism was made up in the 1830s. See *SC: Apostles Creed*

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Fifth Sunday of Easter

05.15.22

Series: Worship- Heaven on Earth

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

New Home

It's not an upgrade or remodel, but an entirely new way of being with God

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,
"See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them;
they will be his peoples, & God himself will be with them" (v3).

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Everyone will know that you are my disciples
if you have love for one another. (*John 13:35*)

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