

May 1, 2022

Revelation 5

Who's winning? Who gets to claim the day? Look at the pictures coming out of Ukraine - who's winning - heaven or hell?

Or closer to home, listen to the talk out of Washington. From what you hear, who or what's winning? Leadership or salesmanship? Peace and love, or anger and hate? So who's winning? Who gets to claim the day? Heaven or hell?

Even closer to home, picture your family tree. Who seems to be winning? Life or death? Or take a look around here at the empty pews. Whose day is it? Who's winning? God or ___?

Who's winning? Whose day is it? What do you see?

Who's winning? Whose day is it? That's what John wanted to know. John had seen days when Jesus owned the day - feeding the 5000, healing the sick, giving sight to the blind, casting out demons, even raising the dead. John had seen days when Jesus owned the day and people walked from miles around to see Jesus. But now, Jesus was nowhere to be seen. Now, John was exiled to the prison island of Patmos; his brother James and the rest of the disciples had been killed. Why? For claiming that this is "Jesus' Time!"

*Put yourself in the place of John; how would you answer:
"Who's winning? Whose day is it?"*

For the Herod who had John's brother James beheaded, it wasn't "Jesus' Time." Herod thought it was his time, his day. For Roman emperor Nero who had Peter and Paul killed, it wasn't "Jesus' Time." Nero thought it was his time, his day. For the powers that had

John exiled to Patmos, it wasn't "Jesus" Time." They thought it was their time, their day. For all the people who heard about Jesus but wouldn't listen, for all the Christians who quit on Jesus, it wasn't "Jesus' Time." They thought it was their time, their day. And what about today? Whose time, whose day does it seem to be?

Who is most dangerous to the church today?

- the Pilates and Neros and persecutors powers of the world?

- the unbelieving world that refuses to listen or believe?

- Christians who quit or sideline themselves because real committed Christianity is too costly and inconvenient?

Make no mistake about it. Jesus saw what John saw; he sees what we see. So what did Jesus say, what did Jesus do to re-claim his time, to re-claim his day? He gave us the book of Revelation. Jesus showed himself to John, and through John, Jesus shows himself to us.

And what do we see? First, we see God on his throne, holding a scroll sealed with seven seals. What's in the scroll? The future - God's future for his church and the world, God's future for you and for me. But that scroll was sealed shut, so an angel shouts: "**Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?**" Who is worthy to hold the future God has for his people? Who has what it takes to deliver on God's promise, to work God's future? It seemed that there was no one. For John, it looked hopeless. But then an elder tells John: "**Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.**" What a great way to see Jesus - as God's promised Lion to tear apart the enemy! ... as God's promised King to deliver his

people! Jesus had stood up to Satan and delivered on God's promises in the past. As God's Lion, Jesus broke the power of Satan. As God's forever King, Jesus broke the power of death. What a great way to see Jesus - as Lion and King! As Lion and King, He would have what it takes to hold the future and deliver on God's promises.

Where might we see pictures of Jesus as Lion and King?

What pictures of Jesus do we see more often?

Why do you think that is? Which do you prefer? Why?

But Jesus didn't show himself as Lion, did he? Instead Jesus showed himself as Lamb, a lamb looking like it had been slain, killed. We see the evil in the world. We see Christ's Church under attack. We want to see some Lion, don't we? Instead Jesus shows himself as Lamb.

What do we think of that? Maybe we're a bit disappointed. Inside we might think: "We need to see more of Jesus as Lion claiming the day. If we saw more of Jesus as Lion then there would be no doubt - this is 'Jesus' Time.' If we saw more of Jesus as Lion, the Church would be set; we'd all be living more and giving more for Jesus." That's the song of the here-and-now (isn't it?) - "if Jesus did things my way"

Over and above, they sing a different song. Over and above, the saints and angels see Jesus as Lamb and what do they do? They bow down and worship - "This is 'Jesus' Time!" They see Jesus as Lamb claiming this time as his time, and what do they do? They break out into song. They don't sing like they're shriveled and dead:

“This is ‘Jesus Time.’” No, they burst into song new and alive: “This is ‘Jesus’ Time!”

First, the saints sing: “This is ‘Jesus’ Time!” Why? Not because the saints see Jesus crushing evil on the news. No, they sing “This is ‘Jesus’ Time!” because Jesus died for us and with his blood, Jesus bought us for God. Jesus has set us right with God and right for heaven. For the saints in heaven, that’s all the reason they need to celebrate: “This is ‘Jesus’ Time!”

What lesson might we learn there for ourselves?

Then the angels take a turn: “**You have made them [the saints] to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they [the saints] will reign on the earth.**” The angels see what God is doing for the saints and they just have to sing the greatness of Jesus - “This is ‘Jesus’ time!”

Now imagine a new camera angle. We’ve just seen a close-up of the saints and angels praising the Lamb. Now we get the wide-angle view. And what do we see? Angels, thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand, singing out: “**Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!**” And now, all of creation answers: “**To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!**” Saints and angels singing back and forth; millions of angels and all creation singing back and forth; and over all that singing, God’s special angel honor guard shouts out: “Amen! Amen! Amen!” Why? This is “Jesus’ Time!”

We might think: “I can see that in the book of Revelation, but how - in the world - can I see that this is ‘Jesus’ Time’? How - in the world - can our world see that this is ‘Jesus’ Time’?”

In other words, how does Jesus want to show his victory in our world today?

The answer to those questions has the angels singing in heaven! Jesus has priests gathered and scattered throughout the world. These priests know secrets from heaven that the world doesn’t know. These priests have powers from heaven that the world doesn’t have. These priests are privileged - they have an “in” with God; they get to go direct to God. And these priests live a special calling in this world. As moms, dads, kids in school - they show this is “Jesus’ Time!” As bosses and workers and retired people - they show this is “Jesus’ Time!” Sometimes people listen, sometimes not, but these priests that Jesus has gathered and scattered - around the world they show: “This is ‘Jesus’ Time!””

This past week, how have you shown your world that this is “Jesus’ Time”?

At the same time that Jesus has a special priesthood at work in this world, Jesus is also setting up a special kingdom in this world. You can’t find it on a map. You will hardly hear it in the news. But this kingdom is ruling, not just over and above, but here and now. Here and now, in Christ’s kingdom, hearts are refusing to go with the flow of the here-and-now. With Jesus, they are overruling fear and worry. With Jesus, they are overruling selfishness and the love of

money. And how does it show? They are living and giving generously, living and giving in a way that shows - “This is ‘Jesus’ Time!””

What forces of darkness and evil, worldliness and selfishness, are at work in your life, working to hide “This is Jesus’ Time”? How will you live with Jesus to overrule those forces of darkness and evil?

Who are these kings and priests showing - “This is ‘Jesus’ Time!””? You are, right? You look over and above. You listen over and above. You know what Jesus has for you over and above. But you’re not just waiting to graduate to over and above. Here and now, you are God’s kingdom and priests to show the world - “This is ‘Jesus’ Time!””

This is “Jesus’ Time!” Looking around, it might not look that way. But Jesus will deliver. He is the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last. He is the Lamb who bought you. He is the Lion who fought for you. He is the Living One with life for you. Here and now, over and above, Jesus holds your future safe in his hands. So what do we say? How do we live? Over and above, here and now - **“This is ‘Jesus’ time!”** Amen!

How will you show “This is Jesus’ Time!”?

April 30 & May 1, 2022

DIVINE SERVICE II

IN OUR WORLD TODAY... we look and listen to what we see and hear around us and it can sure look and sound as if evil is winning and God and his goodness are losing.

IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY ... John gives us a peek above and beyond to see who is truly winning, and how we get to share his victory even today!

OPENING HYMN

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

Hymn 512 v. 1, 2, 5, & 6

All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem and crown him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem and crown him Lord of all.

Crown him, ye martyrs of our God who from his altar call;
extol the stem of Jesse's rod and crown him Lord of all.
Extol the stem of Jesse's rod and crown him Lord of all.

Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe on this terrestrial ball
to him all majesty ascribe and crown him Lord of all.
To him all majesty ascribe and crown him Lord of all.

Oh, that with yonder sacred throng we at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song and crown him Lord of all.
We'll join the everlasting song and crown him Lord of all.

INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

CONFESSION

M: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

**C: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.
For faithless worrying and selfish pride,
For sins of habit and sins of choice,
For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,
You should cast me away from your presence forever.
O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.**

ABSOLUTION

M: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY (*Kyrie*)

M: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: Christ, have mercy.

M: For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.

C: Amen.

HYMN

“Like the Golden Sun Ascending”

Hymn 470 v. 2 & 3

Hymn 147 (CW93) v. 4

Thanks to you, O Christ victorious! Thanks to you, O Lord of life!
Death has now no power o’er us, you have conquered in the strife.
Thanks because you did arise and have opened paradise!
None can fully sing the glory of the resurrection story.

You have died for my transgression, all my sins on you were laid.
You have won for me salvation, on the cross my debt was paid.
From the grave I shall arise and shall meet you in the skies.
Death itself is transitory; I shall lift my head in glory.

Grant me grace, O blessed Savior, And your Holy Spirit send
That my life and my behavior May be pleasing to the end,
That I may not fall again Into death’s grim pit and pain,
Whence by grace you have retrieved me
And from which you have relieved me.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, by the humiliation of your Son, you lifted up this fallen world from the despair of death. By his resurrection to life, grant your faithful people gladness of heart and the hope of eternal joys; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

READING

Revelation 5 (EHV)

And I saw a scroll in the right hand of him who sat on the throne, with writing on the front and on the back, sealed with seven seals.

And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll by breaking its seals?" No one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it.

And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. Then one of the elders said to me, "Stop weeping. Look! The Lion from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed and is able to open the scroll and its seven seals."

And I saw a Lamb standing in the center, near the throne, surrounded by the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders. The Lamb seemed to have been slain, and he had seven horns and seven eyes (these are the seven spirits of God that have been sent into all the world). The Lamb came and took the scroll out of the right hand of him who sat on the throne. And when the Lamb took the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders bowed down before the Lamb.

Each one had a harp and gold bowls full of incense (these are the prayers of the saints). And they sang a new song, saying:

You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals,
because you were slain,
and you bought us for God with your blood
out of every tribe and language and people and nation.
You made them to be a kingdom and priests for our God,
and they will reign on the earth.

And I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels who were around the throne and around the living creatures and the elders. Their number was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands upon thousands. With a loud voice they were saying:

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive
power and riches and

wisdom and strength and
honor and glory and blessing.

I also heard every creature that is in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying:

To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever.

The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders bowed down and worshipped.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 30C

Refrain

I will praise, praise you, LORD, for
you have res - cued me.

Tone

I will exalt you, LORD, for you lifted me out / of the depths;
you spared me from going down / to the pit.
Sing the praises of the LORD, you his faithful / people;
praise his / holy name.

I will exalt you, LORD, for you lifted me out / of the depths;
you spared me from going down / to the pit.
Sing the praises of the LORD, you his faithful / people;
praise his / holy name.

For his anger lasts only a / moment,
but his favor lasts a / lifetime;
weeping may stay / for the night,
but rejoicing comes in the / morning. *Refrain*

Refrain

I will praise, praise you, LORD, for
you have res - cued me.

Tone

To you, / LORD, I called;
to the Lord I cried for / mercy:
“Hear, LORD, and be merci- / ful to me;
LORD, / be my help.”

You turned my wailing into / dancing;
you removed my sackcloth and clothed / me with joy,
that my heart may sing your praises and not be / silent.
LORD my God, I will praise you for- / ever.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

2 Timothy 1:10

Alleluia. Christ Jesus has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

John 21:1–14

Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. “I’m going out to fish,” Simon Peter told them, and they said, “We’ll go with you.” So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.

He called out to them, “Friends, haven’t you any fish?”

“No,” they answered.

He said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.” When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, “It is the Lord,” he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish you have just caught.” So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” None of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Again”

Hymn 459

Christ the Lord is ris’n again; Christ has broken death’s strong chain.
Hark, the angels shout for joy, singing evermore on high:
Hallelujah!

He who gave for us his life, who for us endured the strife,
is our Paschal Lamb today. We too sing for joy and say:
Hallelujah!

He who bore all pain and loss comfortless upon the cross
lives in glory now on high, pleads for us, and hears our cry:
Hallelujah!

He whose path no records tell has descended into hell;
he the strong man armed has bound and in highest heav’n is crowned.
Hallelujah!

He who slumbered in the grave is exalted now to save;
now through Christendom it rings that the Lamb is King of kings.
Hallelujah!

Now he bids us tell abroad how the lost may be restored,
how the penitent forgiv’n, how we, too, may enter heav’n.
Hallelujah!

SERMON

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

(Guests, please see our communion practice on page 2.)

(Individually packaged wafers are gluten-free.)

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: **It is good and right so to do.**

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who rose from the dead in glorious triumph to bring forgiveness to the world and everlasting life to all who believe. Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY *Sanctus*

O holy, holy, holy
Lord God of pow'r and might,
Your glory, earth and heaven
In countless ways recite.
Hosanna! Come and save us,
Lord God of hosts on high,
And in your grace and mercy
Receive our fervent cry.

Hosanna in the highest!
How truly blest is he
Who in God's name is coming
To set his people free!
He comes to bring salvation
And with his blood outpoured,
Deliver us from bondage –
Hosanna, mighty Lord!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my † body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my † blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

LAMB OF GOD

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

"At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing"

Hymn 675

At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to our victorious King,
who has washed us in the tide flowing from his pierced side.

Alleluia!

Praise we him whose love divine gives his sacred blood for wine,
gives his body for the feast— Christ the victim, Christ the priest.

Alleluia!

Where the paschal blood is poured, death's dread angel sheathes the
sword;

Israel's hosts triumphant go thro' the wave that drowns the foe.

Alleluia!

Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, paschal victim, paschal bread;
with sincerity and love eat we manna from above.

Alleluia!

Mighty Victim from the sky, hell's fierce pow'rs beneath you lie.
You have conquered in the fight, you have brought us life and light.

Alleluia!

Now no more can death appall, now no more the grave enthrall;
you have opened paradise, and your saints in you shall rise.

Alleluia!

Easter triumph, Easter joy! This alone can sin destroy;
from sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free, newborn souls in you to be.
Alleluia!

Father, who the crown shall give, Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days, Three in One, your name we praise.
Alleluia!

CLOSING PRAYER

M: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

"There Is a Higher Throne"

Hymn 885

There is a higher throne than all this world has known,
where faithful ones from ev'ry tongue will one day come.
Before the Son we'll stand, made faultless through the Lamb;
believing hearts find promised grace; salvation comes. *Refrain*

Refrain

Hear heaven's voices sing; their thund'rous anthem rings
through em'rald courts and sapphire skies; their praises rise.
All glory, wisdom, pow'r, strength, thanks, and honor are
to God our King who reigns on high forevermore.

And there we'll find our home, our life before the throne;
we'll honor him in perfect song where we belong.
He'll wipe each tear-stained eye as thirst and hunger die;
the Lamb becomes our Shepherd-King; we'll reign with him. *Refrain*

OFFERING

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