

September
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***"You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals,
because you were slain, and with your blood
you purchased men for God from every tribe and language
and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom
and priests to serve our God."***

Revelation 5:9-10 NIV

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I used to visit an elderly couple whose living room was lined with photographs of all their children, grandchildren, and even great grandchildren at every stage of development, from birth through college. You could tell how very thankful they were for the great gift God had given them with their family and it was rare that they would not share some story about them. Every home reveals something about its owner. What does your home reveal about you? When guests enter, what do they learn about your interests, tastes, and preferences?

I think it is very interesting to study the biblical texts that speak about God's home in order to see what they say about Him. This is done most extensively in chapters four and five of the book of Revelation. In these chapters we are not only treated to a magnificent verbal picture of the incredible beauty of God's dwelling, but we are treated to a detailed description of what is going on there as well.

The early Christians believed that their own worship of God was not merely an imitation of, but an actual participation in, the worship taking place in heaven itself. This is why we say in our communion liturgy, "Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify your glorious name..." How blessed we are to join in this heavenly worship which we will one day enjoy in our heavenly Father's house. Indeed, He deserves to be worshipped and praised because He has sent His son, Jesus Christ, to be "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." What comfort, hope, and joy are ours through the forgiveness and salvation that is offered us in the means of grace (the Word and the Sacraments). And what a privilege it is to receive God's blessings here at Holy Cross through worship, Sunday School, and Bible study. As we begin a new school year, let us seek to avail ourselves of every opportunity to be reminded of our Father's house, where we are all headed by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Skelton



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Words from the Cross