

Behold, the Lamb of God

Lent Midweek VI – April 5, 2017

+ + +

Prayer at the Close of the Day

THEME HYMN

“The Lamb”

Verse 1

**The Lamb, the Lamb,
O Father, where's the sacrifice?
Faith sees, believes
God will provide the Lamb of price!
Worthy is the Lamb Whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!**

Verse 2

**The Lamb, the Lamb,
One perfect final offering.
The Lamb, the Lamb,
Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing.
Worthy is the Lamb Whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!**

Verse 3

**He sighs, he dies,
He takes my sin and wretchedness.
He lives, forgives,
He gives me His own righteousness.
Worthy is the Lamb Whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!**

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.

Amen.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

to sing praise to Your name, O Most High.

To herald Your love in the morning,

Your truth at the close of the day.

CONFESSION

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for self-examination

I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my own fault, my own grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to life everlasting. Amen.

The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins.

Amen.

PRAYER

PASSION HYMN VERSE

“Glory Be to Jesus”

Verse 1

**Glory be to Jesus,
Who in bitter pains
Poured for me the lifeblood
From His sacred veins!**

Verse 2

**Grace and life eternal
In that blood I find;
Blest be His compassion,
Infinitely kind!**

+ The Triumphant Lamb of God in Revelation 5 +

HYMN

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

Verse 1

**Crown Him with many crowns
The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark how the heav’nly anthem drowns
All music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless king
Through all eternity.**

A GLIMPSE AT REVELATION 5

If you've ever read the Book of Revelation you know that it is full of symbols -- beasts and elders, angels and that great serpent -- all manner of interesting creatures. Some people read the Book of Revelation trying to figure out the time of Jesus' return – even though the Bible reminds us “no one can know the time.” But in Chapter 5, that isn't our concern. We want to catch a glimpse of the far side of redemption. Chapter 5 is a journey into the heavenly throne room.

The Book of Revelation, often called the Apocalypse or the Revelation of St. John, is written by the Apostle John, in exile on the Island of Patmos off the west coast of Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey). It was probably written late in the reign of Emperor Domitian (81-96 AD), about 90 AD.

John writes of a revelation of last things shown to him by Jesus Christ (1:1). Revelation (Greek *apocalypse*) is written in an entirely different literary style than the rest of the Bible, with the exception of parts of the Old Testament Book of Daniel. This genre, known as *apocalyptic*

literature, discusses turmoil here on earth during the last times, images rich in symbolism and character, and long cycles of discourse.

But don't mistake symbolism for uncertainty, as if the meaning is up for grabs. John uses symbols to communicate this vision of heaven and the exalted Christ, a vision that is inexpressible in human language.

The first three chapters picture the exalted Christ and give his encouragement and warnings to the seven churches of Asia. In chapter 4, John is summoned up to heaven, where he sees the throne of God surrounded by 24 elders and four living creatures. We pick up the narrative of John's vision in Chapter 5.

In Chapter 5, we encounter a triumphant lamb. We expect triumph from lions, not from lambs, but when this glorious "Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David," is announced, John sees a lamb instead. The Lion is the Lamb, an amazing and deliberate juxtaposition of might and meekness. He is a servant, sacrificial King – one of might and compassion!

"Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth." (Revelation 5:6)

See what the description tells us:

- **The Lamb** is obviously a symbol for Jesus Christ himself, whom John the Baptist had proclaimed, "The Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). But this is no ordinary lamb.
- **Appearing to have been slain**, his wounds were visible in this vision. A sacrificial lamb would have been slain by having his throat cut. It reminds me of the line, "those wounds, yet visible above..." in the hymn "Crown Him with Many Crowns." Yet somehow, this Lamb who has been slain has triumphed -- just how he has triumphed we'll see as the vision unfolds.

- **The Lamb is standing** in the midst of the throne and the elders. Though he had been slain, he is now standing and lives -- a clear reference to Jesus' resurrection from the dead.
- **The Lamb has seven horns.** In the Old Testament horns signify power, probably from the demonstration of might when two horned rams would fight (Deuteronomy 33:17). Seven is a number that often expresses the idea of perfection in the universe. The Triune God in heaven plus the four corners of the earth picture a numerical completeness of seven. So seven horns indicates complete might and strength. This is reflected in the Gospels by the risen Christ declaring, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me" (Matthew 28:18).
- **The Lamb has seven eyes** -- a unique picture! The seven eyes indicate that the Lamb sees fully, completely. The slain Lamb that stands is all powerful and all knowing -- omnipotent and omniscient.
- **Seven spirits** – again, a unique picture referencing the complete work of the Holy Spirit in creation.

HYMN

"Crown Him with Many Crowns"

Verse 2

**Crown Him the Lord of love.
Behold His hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above,
In beauty glorified.
No angels in the sky
Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bend their wond'ring eyes
At mysteries so bright.**

The song the elders sing is a "new song," one not heard before. It is sung upon the occasion of enthroning the triumphant, conquering Lamb. Examine the words with me, for the song explains the basis of the Lamb's worthiness to open the scroll and execute its kingdom, its promises, and the awesome events leading up to the end.

*"And they sang a new song:
'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,
and they will reign on the earth.'" (Revelation 5:9-10)*

The scroll symbolizes God's plan of salvation! Now, the millions of angels sing a second song in praise to the Lamb:

*"Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength
and honor and glory and praise!" (Revelation 5:12)*

The third song of praise is not sung by just the elders or millions of angels. This song is sung by every creature or created thing.

"Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing:

*'To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be praise and honor and glory and power,
for ever and ever!'*

*The four living creatures said, 'Amen,' and the elders fell down and worshiped."
(Revelation 5:13-14)*

Now God has highly exalted him. Every knee is bowing and every tongue is confessing that Jesus Christ is Lord – even the unbeliever at judgment will confess Christ as Lord. And God the Father receives glory from it, too, since the Father and the Son are One. Notice that these songs of praise in Revelation 5 teach us that not only God the Father, but Jesus the Son, is also to be worshipped and praised.

Jesus, "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" -- and your sin as well as mine -- this Jesus is worthy of our worship and praise. In Revelation 5, heaven can't seem to restrain itself. It breaks out in songs of praises to the Lamb again and again. As we come to know and appreciate Jesus the Lamb of God, we too will desire to praise him more and more. This coming Easter, join your voices with multitudes who sing the great song of praise:

HYMN

"Crown Him with Many Crowns"

Verse 3

**Crown Him the Lord of life,
Who triumphed o'er the grave
And rose victorious in the strife
For those He came to save.
His glories now we sing,
Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring
And lives that death may die.**

SERMON

"Behold the Lamb of God- The Triumphant Lamb We Worship"

Vicar Luke Watt

HYMN

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

Verse 4

**Crown Him the Lord of heav’n,
Enthroned in worlds above,
Crown Him the king to whom is giv’n
The wondrous name of Love.
Crown Him with many crowns
As thrones before Him fall;
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns,
For He is king of all.**

VOLUNTARY

OFFERING

PRAYERS

LORD’S PRAYER

LUTHER’S EVENING PRAYER

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

BLESSING

The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“Go to Dark Gethsemane”

Verse 1

**Go to dark Gethsemane, All who feel the tempter’s pow’r;
Your Redeemer’s conflict see, Watch with Him one bitter hour;
Turn not from His griefs away; Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.**

Verse 2

**Follow to the judgment hall, View the Lord of life arraigned;
Oh, the wormwood and the gall! Oh, the pangs His soul sustained!
Shun not suff’ring, shame, or loss; Learn from Him to bear the cross.**

Verse 3

**Calv’ry’s mournful mountain climb; There, adoring at His feet,
Mark that miracle of time, God’s own sacrifice complete.
It is finished!” hear Him cry; Learn from Jesus Christ to die.**

DISMISSAL

Holy Week

April 9	Palm Sunday	Worship at 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. <i>Children's Processional at 10:30 a.m.</i>
April 13	Maundy Thursday	Worship at 7:00 p.m. <i>First Communion for 5th graders</i>
April 14	Good Friday	Tenebrae Service at 7:00 p.m.
April 16	Easter Sunday	Worship at 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. <i>Breakfast begins at 8:45 a.m.</i> <i>Easter Egg Hunt at 9:30 a.m.</i>

Remember to bring a flower to decorate the Easter Cross!

+ **+** **+**

Sunday, April 23

Regular Worship at 8:00 a.m.
Children's Praise Service at 10:30 a.m.