

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from God our Father, and our Risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

My dear beloved flock, the text for our meditation this morning is the Epistle lesson of the Revelation to Saint John, the fifth chapter verses one through eighteen.

Boys and girls, how are you doing this morning? I pray that you are still doing well this blessed Eastertide. Do you know how long eternity is? Eternity is a really long time. As a way to illustrate it, on this tape measure, this little part here is our time upon the earth. All the rest of this, is eternity. That's a really long time. Do you know what will happen during your lives? No, neither do I. I do not even know what tomorrow holds, much less next week. This can be really scary. Yet, we do not need to be afraid. Why? Because of what we see in our text for today, we see that Jesus controls all things, even the future, in His hands. How does this fact comfort us? Ponder that question as you hear the rest of the sermon. You may go back to your seats and those who love you.

### **We do not know what the future holds**

Because of our sinful nature, our knowledge is blind. We do not know what any of the future holds for us. We plot and we plan to do this or that activity, but we do not know if it will happen. We do not know what the next hour holds for any of us. If we do not know even this, how can we know the rest of the future? We cannot. This fact can scare us, especially if we enjoy making plans and knowing what all will happen in our lives. It

may make us fear even more when we undergo pain and suffering because we do not know when the pain and suffering will ever end. Sometimes, it feels as though the harassment and suffering for following Christ may go on forever.

### **Jesus does, rules and reigns over all things bc His DRA**

Yet, we do not have to be afraid at all. We do not have to be afraid because of the wondrous vision given to Saint John in our text for today. What does He see? He sees a scroll with writing on both the front and the back. The scroll with its seven seals in the right hand of God contains a prophetic message that for the moment is closed to everyone. Yet, because Revelation begins with the idea that a revelation was about to be given concerning events that must soon happen (1:1–3), it is possible that the contents of the scroll focused on the future—a future which was unknown, but which also was important and necessary for God’s people on earth to know. But for the moment as John gazed at the sealed scroll, its message was hidden. And it would remain closed and its contents unknown until the worthy person came to claim it.<sup>1</sup> Thus the problem, it is sealed with seven seals. Only those who have the authority and power can open those seals. If anyone else were to do so, they would face the wrath of whoever put the seals upon the scroll. For one other example, look at Jesus’ tomb. It was sealed with seven seals by Pontius Pilate. To break those seals, you would then face the full military might of Rome arrayed against you.

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<sup>1</sup> Brighton, L. A. (1999). [Revelation](#) (pp. 134–135). Concordia Pub. House.

John is sad because no one in heaven, on earth or under the earth is found worthy to open the scroll.

But he was told by an elder not to be afraid. There is One who is able to open the scroll. The Root of David was able to open it because of His triumph. John then sees the glorious throne room of God. He sees the throne surrounded by the living creatures, all living things upon the earth, surrounded by myriad upon myriads of angels. Upon the throne He sees a lamb standing, looking as though it had been slain. That Lamb? That is Christ! He is worthy to open the scroll. Why? Because He has been slain. He has died, but He is standing alive forevermore! By His perfect life, suffering, death, and resurrection from the dead, Jesus has won for us the victory. He has destroyed sin. He has crushed the head of our old evil foe, the Devil. By dying He has destroyed death forever. By His ascension to the right hand of the Father, He rules and reigns over all of creation for our good and for our benefit. Thus, the song of all creation, “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise.... To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, forever and ever. Amen!”

### **Comforts us with that knowledge through His WS**

Truly, the Lamb is worthy. He has conquered on our behalf all of our enemies. We do not need to fear what the future may hold, because we know the One who controls the future. Jesus does. It is in His control alone. *No one anywhere* could receive the scroll and dominate its contents. No evil force, no creature, angelic or otherwise, no human, and certainly not human history

and ambitions, could claim authority to receive the scroll. Only the chosen one of God, the Lamb, could do so. This means first of all that the entire destiny of the human race and its history is under the lordship and control of Jesus Christ. Humanity is *not* under the guidance of some mindless evolutionary force and is not subject to the ambitions and works of people, but rather it is under the will and power of God as now exercised by Jesus Christ. The governance of humanity and humanity's history and ultimate conclusion are under the control of God—his judgment and his love.<sup>2</sup>

Everything is under the control of our Savior, the one who has saved and redeemed us by shedding His blood. We do not need to fear, we know Who rules and reigns and how great His love for us is! We believe that He has died and rose from the dead, all to save and redeem us. We know, even in the midst of trouble and fears, that Christ is on His throne. We know that at the end of all things. He will come in power and glory, judge the living and the dead, and we will be with Him forever and ever, around His throne, with angels, archangels, all the host of heaven, and all creation, joining them, as we do even now, in praising our Crucified, Risen, and Ascended Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ forever and ever.

May the Peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard and keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

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<sup>2</sup> Brighton, L. A. (1999). [Revelation](#) (p. 140). Concordia Pub. House.