

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
Quincy, IL
Rev. Martin R. Eden

The Fifth Sunday of Easter- Confirmation
Saturday, May 1, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, May 2, 2010 at 8:00 a.m. & 10:15 a.m.

“I Am Making All Things New.”

Rev. 21:1-5

Christ is risen!! He is risen indeed!! Alleluia!

In John’s Revelation, we are told of many wondrous images. It is easy for our sinful minds to dismiss the vision of John and the message contained therein as an ancient version of Alice in Wonderland. It’s a crazy story with a lot of crazy images that have a deeper meaning, but we aren’t quite sure what it all means, but it is interesting.

But what we see throughout John’s Revelation is the confirmation that Christ was prophetically promised and that His incarnation, His entrance into the world as the child of Mary, and His subsequent death and resurrection happened so that God’s creation could be restored to its original glory and righteousness.

The old heaven and the old earth will pass away. John doesn’t tell us how this will happen. That is not important. He only confirms the words of Isaiah and the words of Christ Himself that it will happen. And when it does happen, all the saints will forever be joined with the Lamb of God before His throne.

All things being “new” is really the theme of John’s final Revelation. The saints of God will bear their new name – Christ’s own

name. John records the Lord's words in Revelation chapter 3, "I will also write on him my new name."

This weekend, here at Our Redeemer, we get to see "all things being new" in a microcosm. Saturday evening, we witnessed the new birth in Baptism of Lauryn Cecelia Sharrow.

This morning, we will bear witness as our catechumens will confirm that, as a child, they received the seal and promise of God Himself – and God adopted them into His family, placing His Name – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – upon them. With the Baptism of God's people, the saints on earth are born anew. St. Paul tells us that "anyone in Christ is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come."

The saints in heaven, we are told, sing unendingly their new song in a world where God makes all things new – there will be a new earth under a new heaven. We will live in a new Holy City – a new Jerusalem.

Through the Lamb's perfect sacrifice, we have been freed from our sin and made capable of true communion with God. And this morning, these three will partake of a new reality in Christ, as they join in that unique union and communion with our Lord and His Church. And until we join the company of heaven or until the Lord returns (whichever comes first) and we experience the full perfection of sinlessness and complete communion with Christ, we are limited to a fore-taste of that communion in the sacramental union we share with

our Lord through the receiving of His Body and Blood.

During this Easter Season, we celebrate the sure and continual promise that, in Christ, all things will be new. In Baptism, we experience the newness of life that already comes from God. For those who confirm the faith of their Baptism this day, they experience something new, as they participate in the very Body and Blood of Christ for the first time.

They will gather with the family of the church and commune with us and Christ as He comes to us in, with, and under the form of bread and wine. What a miracle this is that we get to experience every week.

This is where the presence of God and the cloud of faithful witnesses are found. And we rejoice this day as God has given us a fore-taste of the feast to come. But it is on the new earth in which we will dwell after the Last Day where there will be nothing that will separate man from God. Christ's Church will finally be free of every remnant of sin and in full fellowship and communion with one another.

Today is a day to celebrate. It is Easter. We celebrate the empty grave -- Christ's and ours. We will be made new in the resurrection. We celebrate the new life in Baptism, and the Confirmation of the faith created in Baptism. We have been made new in Christ. We celebrate the confirmation of God's promises as we have seen them fulfilled in Christ.

We celebrate the forgiveness of sin which allows us to begin

each day as a new person clothed in the righteousness of Christ. We celebrate what our future holds for us. We celebrate with the saints in heaven gathered around the throne of God. “He who was seated on the throne said, ‘Behold, I am making all things new.’” Amen.
Christ is risen!! He is risen indeed!! Alleluia!