

6th Sunday of Easter
“Come see the Lamb’s beautiful bride – the Holy Christian Church!”
Revelation 21:9
May 25, 2025
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Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, our text for this 6th Sunday of Easter Sunday is from Revelation 21:9

“Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, “Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb’s wife.”

So far the text:

During the Eastertide of these 50 days before Pentecost, our Epistle readings from the three year series, series C, have been taken from the book of Revelation... book of great comfort for Christians, as we go through the tribulation of this world.

Sometimes people shy away from the book of Revelation, thinking that there is only fearful prophecies of the future. Yes, there is symbolism like the 7 bowls filled with the seven plagues that come upon the world. But, God’s people are comforted again and again that God will be with them and never forsake them. As we heard two Sundays ago in the Gospel reading from John 10:

“27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.”

And in today’s Gospel reading, Jesus tells us these powerful and comforting words:

“33 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

Yes, in this world, in this world order of things, there is much evil. There are many enemies of Christ and His church. There is much lack of peace. And then we are given the great news: **“be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”**

Yes, even now, in this midst of this old order of the fallen world, Jesus has won the battle over sin, death and the devil. “Everybody wants to rule the world”. Is a phrase repeated in songs and movies. But, Jesus, in fact, does. By His death and resurrection, He has defeated Satan, taken away the sting of death and offers the entire world salvation and eternal life.

Does everybody repent of one’s sins and believe in Jesus? Unfortunately, no. Thus we have in our opening verse of our text, a reference to the seven bowls of plagues that are poured out on the world. These are described in chapters 15-18. These are God’s judgements upon those who reject Him and continue to believe false teachings. Even as these plagues are poured out upon unbelievers, whose names are not written in the Book of Life, God’s people sing out His praises.

**“Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty!
Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints!
4 Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name?
For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You,
For Your judgments have been manifested.” Revelation 15:3-4**

And as these plagues are poured out, the result is that men’s hearts are further hardened. They blaspheme God and do not repent.

This is the old order, the old earth where the enemies of Christ are present. We heard them listed in the verse 8 right before our text last week:

“the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars...”

But, now... in the new heavens and earth, none are present. Why? Revelation tells us that they...

“shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

And instead, John is directed to look at the beauty of this new earth, this new Jerusalem...for it is the bride of Christ. It is the Holy Christian Church.

“Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb’s wife. 10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God...”

This reminds us of when the devil carried Jesus away to a high mountain when He was tempted.

“8 Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9 And he said to Him, “All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.”

Jesus did not covet the old order, the temporary things of this old world. He did not worship the devil, but...

10 Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.’ ” (Matthew 4:8-10)

By Jesus’ faithfulness and perfect life, Jesus established the new heavens and the new earth. By His shed blood on the cross, His bride, the Holy Christian Church is cleansed and presented pure and unblemished. All the sins of God’s people who have fallen to the devil many times are forgiven and God’s repentant people stand clothed in the Lamb’s righteous robe...in His holiness!

Romans 8:37

“Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.”

It is through Christ alone...through His meritorious work that the bride of Christ, the holy city, is now seen in glory. As our text so clearly tells us. The bride of the Lamb descends from heaven...from God. All that the bride has and is comes from God. It is a gift, by grace that the bride stands now in heaven in glory.

There have been many jokes made about conversations with St. Peter at the pearly gates of heaven. Maybe you’ve heard a few. One such joke goes like this:

“A cab driver arrives in heaven. St. Peter gives him a gold staff and a silk white robe., and sent him on to his reward. Waiting next in line was a preacher. St. Peter looks at the record, furrows his brow, and says “we will let you in, but take this wood staff and this cloth robe.”

The preacher was shocked. “I was a man of the cloth. I faithfully preached every week. Why does a cabbie get rewarded higher than a preacher?”

“Up here we reward results,” St Peter replied. “Whenever you preached, people slept. Whenever he drove, people prayed.”

Well, I hope this sermon isn't putting you to sleep and instead leading you to lift up your prayers of confession, thanksgiving and petition to the Lamb! For Jesus indeed invites us to pray in our Gospel reading:

“whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. 24 Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.”

In Jesus, we the bride have full access to the Father even now! And all that we have as His redeemed people is again a gift from God. For He wants our joy to be full!

And yes, God wants results to get into heaven... 100% pure results! And, no one, not the preacher, not the cab driver, none of us has lived the perfect life to enter one of the 12 gates of pearl, guarded by angels. But Jesus' death and resurrection gave the perfect result. Through faith in Jesus, all believers have access into the new heavens. Jesus' result is our result through faith!

How do we hear of God's great work of salvation...through the teaching, the doctrine of the Gospel, given to the prophets and apostles. The names of the 12 tribes of Israel are written on the gates and the foundation is laid upon the teaching of the 12 apostles. This is the totality of church of the Old and New Testament... all believers in the Lamb!

Oh what beauty adorns the bride, by God...jasper, and gold and precious stones...God's beauty...His righteousness. And there is no temple in the new Jerusalem. For the Lamb, Himself is in their midst and He gives light to all. **“And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light,”**

From the nations come people of all races saved by the blood of the Lamb. Lydia from Phillipi, Timothy from Lystra and all who have believed in Jesus...you and me. It is the Lord's doing. By the Spirit's leading, Paul was sent to Macedonia, especially to find Lydia by the river and **"The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul. 15 And when she and her household were baptized..."**

That's the bride of the Lamb... baptized believers who have received Christ's righteousness through faith...you and me. By grace we are saved.

In this world, in this old earth, old order we know that there is evil around us and in us. But, God has graciously brought us into His new Jerusalem through faith, washed and cleansed us, His bride and in the new heavens, there will no longer be any evil. So our epistle reading concludes.

"But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life."

All glory be to God, the Father, Son and Holy Ghost! Amen

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Amen. (Philippians 4:7)