

## A WEEKLY WORD

May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025; 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

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**READINGS:** Acts 11:1-18, Psalm 148, Revelation 21:1-6, John 13:31-35

The readings today show us the hope that comes from the Resurrection. In the first reading, Peter brings the Gospel to the Gentiles and many are saved as soon as he begins to speak. To me that means that there is no distinction between those God has created as long as they accept the Gospel as truth and the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour.

The Reading from Revelation is such a beautiful reading, often read at funerals, but it is so much more. Verse 2 says ***“And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.”*** We can all relate to how beautiful a bride is, and how hopeful! Verse 3 says ***“And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and be their God; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more.”*** I cannot wait, can you? God dwelling among us? How exciting and humbling at the same time. No more pain, no more mourning and crying, no more death! For us and our loved ones who believe (as referenced in the first paragraph), we will spend eternity together with our Lord. This gives me goosebumps and the hope of a future after our time on earth is done.

The Gospel tells us to love one another, not just to love, but to love one another as Jesus loves us! A bit hard to do, I am sure, but something to encourage us to look beyond those things that blind us. God loves us unconditionally, something a mere mortal finds hard to do, but if you regard others as Jesus does, maybe it will be a little easier. We all have those in our lives that are hard to love, and we can't do it alone, but with Jesus in your heart, and prayer on your lips, it will become easier over time. A good lesson for all of us, me included, as we go through the rest of the Easter season, reflecting on the full impact of the Resurrection.

***“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” John 13.34-35***