

5th Sunday of Easter Time - Year C

- There is a story about an eagle raised as a chicken (old story you've heard)
 - One day an eagle soars overhead – what is that?
 - That's an eagle, King of the birds – he belongs to the sky
 - We're chickens – we belong to the earth
 - So the eagle lived his whole life as a chicken
 - That's what he thought he was
 - What do we think we are? Chickens or Eagles?
- Our Lord loves us – in our potential
 - He calls us to be eagles, not chickens
 - He calls us to new heights – new possibilities – new growth
- REV talks about the future where Glory of God reigns in New Jerusalem
 - New Heaven and New Earth
 - Loud voice from heaven “Behold God's dwelling is with Human Race – he will dwell with them and they will be His people and God will always be with them as their God”
 - **Goal of creation is finally realized** –
All history – from the fall in Genesis – is to get to this point
God and man dwelling together in peace – How do we get there?.
- Look at our beginning – First reading Acts – very beginning of our Church
 - Paul & Barnabus complete the first missionary journey
 - Last week they started this journey
 - This week is the return trip
 - Call the church together and report on how GOD (not they) had open the door to the Gentiles
 - They went out and proclaimed the Good News
 - (scattering seeds)
 - When they return Church has taken root (*God did it*)
- WHY? Because they had the right kind of seed – They loved as JC loved.
 - In Gospel, it's the last supper and Judas has just left to betray Jesus
 - Jesus turns to His disciples
 - Gives the great commandment “Love one another”
 - BUT JC says ‘I give you a new commandment’
 - **Not** “Love one another” **rather** “Love as I have love you”
 - Jesus asks us to look into our hearts and ask ourselves
 - How do we love one another?
 - How is my love any different than a pagans?
 - Am I *nice* to people? Or Do I *love* people?
 - The answer to that is what makes us Christian