

5th Sunday of Easter – Year C

- Today's readings talk about our past, our future and our present
 - In Acts we hear about our past
 - How the early church grew
 - How WOG was spread to Jew and Gentile alike
 - How they endured hardship & persevered
 - In Rev we hear about our future
 - A New Heaven & a New Earth
 - A New Jerusalem where God and man dwell together
 - No more death
 - No more wailing or pain
 - God and man at one – together – in peace
 - Gospel speaks to us today, how to live in the present
 - For to get from where we began to New Heaven & New Earth
 - There is only ONE WAY → **JESUS**
 - *And the new commandment He give the Apostles*
 - **Love One Another**
- Let's explore this Gospel a little bit – this is from the Last Supper
 - Why does the Church bring us back to the Last Supper during Easter?
 - Because we need to hear this commandment
 - As post-resurrection people, as Christians, living in the world, we need it.
 - If we can't love one another
 - If we still have hate in our hearts – are we His disciples?
- JN 13 is Last Supper text – it starts:

“Before the feast of Passover, Jesus knew His hour had come to pass from this world to the Father. He loved His own in the world and He loved them to the end. The devil had already put into the heart of Judas to hand him over”

NB – 1. Jesus loved His own and loved them to the end
2. Satan is already in the heart of Judas
3. Love of God and hatred of Satan - in the same room together at the Last Supper

Jesus washes their feet (including Judas)

“Jesus was deeply troubled and testified Amen Amen I say to you, one of you will betray me”
Everyone protests – Jesus says to Judas “What you are going to do, do quickly” & Judas leaves

NB – After Judas leaves (today's Gospel) “I give you a new commandment”

- **Satan had entered Judas' heart**
- **Only after hatred leaves the room does Jesus give new commandment**
 - **Can we love – can we live this commandment with hatred in hearts?**
 - “This is how all will know you are my disciples
If you love one another”
 - *Not a commandment for them in the past*
 - *Not a commandment for our future in New Jerusalem*
 - *A commandment for today*
- Do we have hatred in our lives? Probably
 - What do we do about that?
 - Love your enemies – Pray for those that persecute you
 - “How can I love them – I hate them!”
 - FORGIVE – so that we can love again
 - That's hard – do you know what (s)he did/said/...
 - Yes, it is hard – What did Jesus do after giving this new commandment?
 - THE CROSS “Father, forgive them” (Jesus loved his own unto the end)
 - **SO SHOULD WE**