

St Peter's

Sunday 22nd May

Easter 6

Rev 21.10-14, 22-22.5, John 14.23-29

Eternal life

In the person of Jesus, God is revealed, in eternity, to be one God, in three persons.

The humble obedience of Jesus in his earthly life to God the Father, was the revelation of the inner life of God the Holy Trinity. In eternity, the Son humbly serves the Father, in the power of the Spirit.

The eternal life of God is now open to the world, in the person of Jesus.

So that every person who follows Jesus, in a life of humble obedience to God the Father, by the Spirit, has a share in eternal life, already now.

Fellowship with Jesus, is fellowship with the eternal Son. The Son of God. Who was with God, before the world began. Who is with God, in his hidden reign in heaven, giving eternal life to anyone to whom he chooses to give it.

Fellowship with the Son, is fellowship with the Father, by the Spirit.

In fellowship with God the Holy Trinity, we achieve the fulfilment of our lives as human beings in this world. As human beings created in the image of God, we are created with the destiny of fellowship with him. And on the basis of our fellowship with God, fellowship with others. For fellowship with God, and fellowship with others, that is eternal. Stronger than death. Without end.

In fellowship with God, and on this basis, with one another, the church is the light of the world. In a dark world, the church is a present sign, of future salvation. The church is not an end in itself. It is a means to an end. As a present sign, of the future salvation of the world,

the human race, and creation itself, the church is a present sign, of future glory. The future glory of the one God, and of the human race, and of creation itself, in the kingdom of God. At the return of Christ, in final judgment, and salvation of this world.

On that day, the human race, and creation, will be made new. Will come to know fellowship with the Father, through the Son, by the Spirit. Will come to know a final, definitive fulfilment. A final perfection, a final completion, a final consummation, and creation itself, by the reign and rule, not of men and women, but of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Then we will see the entry of this mortal world, into immortality. Then we will see the taking up of this perishable world, into imperishability. Then we will see the transfiguration of all things, in future glory. A glory now revealed to us, and to the world, in the resurrection of Jesus, the Son of God.

It is not yet the day when death will be no more; when mourning and crying and pain will be no more; when the world enters eternal life – in a moment, at the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet – the eternal life that Jesus now enjoys. It is not yet the day of God's new heaven and earth, the holy city, the New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, to make all things new. It is not yet the day when, at Christ's return, God will make all things new.

But that day has now dawned, in Jesus Christ. And by the light of that new day, God has issued his call to all people to come and feast in the kingdom of God, that has now dawned in Jesus Christ, already now, in the midst of a sin dark world, an empty show, that is passing away. That will one day pass away, like a piece of clothing, that has had its day.

Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah of God, the light of the world. In him, the new day in the life of the world, has now dawned. In him, the church, is the light of the world, in a sin dark world, of empty show, of false and foolish hope.

'He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his Beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of our sins.' We read in Colossians chapter 1.

'You are the light of the world' Jesus said.

For all who, upon hearing the Christian message about Jesus of Nazareth, that in him, the kingdom of God himself has now come, in fulfilment of scripture, and repent, and believe, discover themselves, already now living within the dawn light of the future kingdom of God. In the light of the new day. The dawning of the day. In a sin dark, fallen world, that is passing away. At the last trumpet, in the twinkling of an eye, at Christ's return. About which no one knows the hour, not even the Son, but only the Father.

Rev Jon Chamberlain

Vicar