

**Chinese Martyrs Catholic Church
Bible Sharing Program 2023-24
Session #4: The Heavenly Worship & The Lamb that
has been Slain (Rev 4-5)**

CSB = Ignatius Catholic Study Bible
CCSS = Cath Commentary on Sacred Scriptures
BSP04 = 2004-05 BSP notes SN = Special notes
NAB = New American Bible
CSSN = Catholic Scripture Study notes
LS = Dr. Hahn's Lamb's Supper

<p>A</p>	<p><u>Overview & Reflection</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus calls John to “Come up here”; guiding him from earth to Heaven so that he may see “what must happen afterwards”. • John’s visions of the heavenly worship are the inspiration for the liturgy of the early Church. In addition to the utensils used in the liturgy (the throne 4:2, white garments 4:4, gold bowls filled with incense 5:8), prayers (Holy! Holy! Holy! 4:8, the Lamb Hymn 5:12) and the characters involved (elders, lamb, the congregation 5:9-11), chapters 4 and 5 also include the praise for God’s creation (4:11) and salvation (5:9). Similarly, the Liturgy of the Word also includes both OT (the Father and Creation) and NT (the Son and Salvation). • Would there be eternal happiness or boredom in Heaven according to John’s vision of eternal life? 	<p>Chapters 4 = 5</p> <p>4:1 CCSS 1:19</p> <p>BSP04#3B CCSS, CSB SN1, Heb 8:5</p> <p>BSP 04 #3 D&E</p> <p>SN2</p>	
<p>B</p>	<p><u>John’s Vision of Heaven While He “was in the Spirit”</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “... An open door to heaven” allows John to get a glimpse of God’s glory while he is “in spirit”. God’s “throne” represents His authority to govern all creation; this is the focus of Revelation. This image has appeared forty times, the final time of which appears in the Final Judgment before the realization of the New Heaven and New Earth. This represents that the earth must pass; His authority endures forever. God’s sovereignty is like jasper, carnelian, and emerald. • The portrayal of the appearance of the God feared by humanity. • Meaning of “Twenty-four elders”, “the seven spirits of God” and “a sea of glass like crystal”. 	<p>4:1-6</p> <p>4:1-3 CCSS, CSB</p> <p>20:11</p> <p>Heb 12:18-26</p> <p>4:4-6a, CCSS, CSB, 21:12-14, 1Pt 2:9, Rm 12:1-2, 2Tm 4:3</p>	<p>Is 6:1-8, Ezk 1-2, Dan 7:9-27</p> <p>2Sam 7:16</p> <p>Ex 19:16, 24:10 Ezk 1:26-28</p> <p>1Ch 24:1-31 Ex 19:6, Zc 4:2 1Kg 7:23-26</p>

Chinese Martyrs Catholic Church
 Bible Sharing Program 2023-24
 Session #4: The Heavenly Worship & The Lamb that
 has been Slain (Rev 4-5)

C	<p><u>The Heavenly Worship & Praise</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The four living creatures and the explanations. “Holy, holy, holy” – means totally other, different, and transcendent. To proclaim God as thrice holy implies that He is holy in the superlative degree and hints at the trinity of Persons. The twenty-four elders represent God’s people of the Old and New Testament who prostrate before and worship Him. “They throw down their crowns before the throne” as an act of worship; they represent those who have become kings in the Name of Jesus, fully submitting themselves to God with humility. In truth, God does not need our praise, but it is we who need to express our irrepressible joy of praising and worshipping Him. 	<p>4:6b – 11</p> <p>4:6-8 CCSS, CSB</p> <p>CCSS</p> <p>4:9-11 CCSS</p>	<p>Ezk 1:4-22, Ex 25:18-22</p>
D	<p><u>The Mysterious Scroll</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both Ezekiel and John have seen and received a scroll. The former focuses on the disasters suffered by the Israelites, their judgement and punishment, due to their disobedience; the latter focuses on the disasters, judgement and punishment at the end of the world facing “many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings”. The one who can “open the scroll and break its seals” is Christ, “the lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David”. Christ is the only one “worthy to open the scroll and break its seals”. He, possessing the authority and might of God, fulfills all the blessings and curses of OT; He unveils all the mystery in OT through His death, resurrection, and ascension, so that everything, including salvation and the end times, within God’s salvific plan will be fulfilled. 	<p>5:1-5</p> <p>CCSS</p> <p>10:11</p> <p>CSB 22:16</p>	<p>Ezk 2:9-10, 3:1-4</p> <p>Gen 49:9</p> <p>Ezk 2:9-10</p>
E	<p><u>The Lamb Receiving the Scroll & is Being Worshipped Together with the Father</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspired by the Holy Spirit, John’s writing reveals that “the 	<p>5:6-14</p> <p>CCSS, CSB</p>	<p>Gen 22:8,</p>

Chinese Martyrs Catholic Church
Bible Sharing Program 2023-24
Session #4: The Heavenly Worship & The Lamb that
has been Slain (Rev 4-5)

<p>lion of the tribe of Judah” is a Lamb; one that has been slain but remained standing! Such is one of the numerous plot twists throughout Scripture. The Lamb that was slain stands triumphant over death. He is the Mediator between humanity and God, “standing in the midst of the throne and the four living creatures and the elders”; all of whom “fell down before the Lamb”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why are the four living creatures and the elders singing a “new hymn”? “You have made them a kingdom and priests for our God”. – See above B3. • All holy people belonging to the mystical body of Christ will be made “a kingdom ... they shall reign on earth”. This scene foreshadows the fulfillment of the Last Day. • Rev 4:11, worthy is God to receive glory; because of His will all creation “came to be and were created”; Rev 5:11-12, “worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive ... honour and glory and blessing”. • “To the one who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honour, glory and might, forever and ever” – both the Father and the Son are praised => divinity of the Son. John witnesses the end of history in his vision, “God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, above all rule and authority and power and dominion, ... And he has put all things under his feet”. • The visions of Daniel and John share many similarities; the latter is the fulfillment of the former. 	<p>Jn 1:29</p> <p>5:9 CSB CCC 2642</p> <p>5:10 CCSS 20: 4,6 ; 22:5</p> <p>5:11-12 CCSS</p> <p>5:13-14 CCSS</p> <p>Eph 1:21-23</p> <p>CCSS 116-7</p>	<p>Ex 12:3-13 Is 53:7-8</p> <p>Ex 15:1-18</p> <p>Dan 7:13-14, 18,22,27</p> <p>Dan 7:9-27</p>
--	---	--

Chinese Martyrs Catholic Church
Bible Sharing Program 2023-24
Session #4: The Heavenly Worship & The Lamb that
has been Slain (Rev 4-5)

SPECIAL NOTES

1. The Christian tradition has always understood that, as Pope John Paul II said, “The liturgy we celebrate on earth is a mysterious participation in the heavenly liturgy”. (See Angelus Address, November 3, 1996; CCSS p.117.)
2. “In the earthly liturgy we share in a foretaste of that heavenly liturgy which is celebrated in the Holy City of Jerusalem toward which we journey as pilgrims, where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God, Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle. With all the warriors of the heavenly army we sing a hymn of glory to the Lord; venerating the memory of the saints, we hope for some part and fellowship with them; we eagerly await the Saviour, our Lord Jesus Christ, until he, our life, shall appear and we, too, will appear with him in glory.” (CCC 1090)