Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year C

Acts 14:21-27

Psalm 145

Revelations 21: 1-5

John 13:31-35

Something weird is going on here. What it is isn’t exactly clear.

The Gospel is the farewell speech of Jesus. He is going away. He already sent Judas out to do what Judas is wont to do. The hour of darkness is about to descend. Jesus shows his disciples how they are to act – by washing each other’s feet. The disciples don’t understand. This action is so humiliating. Humiliation will descend upon Jesus a hundredfold – betrayal, torture, hanged on a crucifix, and death.

Yet now Jesus says, “Now is the Son of Man glorified and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and God will glorify him at once.” To me that’s the weird part.

When I think of glory, I think of light and happiness and freedom from troubles. We just sang “Glory to God in the highest.” And we are filled with joy. That makes sense. What Jesus is now saying, does not. Glory does not equal death. In just a little time, Jesus is going to suffer a humiliating, painful death. But now he talks about glory.

How about this? Go along with me for a bit.

What if time isn’t what we think it is? What if being is a personalized wave of energy that is so fluid that we can be here and there. Maybe not even that. Our being who we are just is. Time is our attempt, a rather poor attempt, to pin point what we are doing, and who we are at a given moment (which is also a human construct.) Now that’s pretty weird. But maybe it is a way to understand the weirdness of Jesus.

This farewell speech of Jesus is for his disciples. His betrayal and death awaits him. Yet now he is filled with glory and God the Father is glorified in him. At once. You can measure the events that will come after this speech but Jesus in his being is full of glory shared with his Father - a glory so fluid that it is eternal, starting before time begins and continues when time itself ends.

What can we make of this wierdness? Can we make sense of it? And what should we do with it in or lives?

I think this is what heroes are made of – people who rush into the darkness because they know that they are in the light and light overcomes darkness. Or mothers about to give birth. The pain they experience is very real but the greater reality is that they are going to have a baby. Or persons on their deathbed. When you go to see them, they minister to you to make you feel at ease. Or people who work two jobs just to keep their families together. Or people who walk two thousand miles just so that they may have a chance of a better life for themselves and for their children. These people are all in glory – the glory described by Jesus in his farewell address. You can see it. You can feel it. It’s there underneath it all.

What is the key for us to discover the glory that surrounds us? By loving. Not that love that makes you needed in someone’s life. But the kind of love that opens you up to the presence of God. A love that just flows. And just like God, flows eternally outside of time especially outside of the times of humiliation like that of Jesus.

That’s some pretty weird stuff. But it’s glorious.