

Readings

Scripture

^{4:6b} And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: ⁷ the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight. ⁸ And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!"

⁹ And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, ¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying, ¹¹ "Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."

^{5:1} Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. ² And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" ³ And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, ⁴ and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁵ And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."

⁶ And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷ And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. ⁸ And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, ¹⁰ and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."

- Revelation 4:6b-5:10 (*English Standard Version*)

Sermon Outline

Ascended, Seated, Returning

Revelation 4:6-5:10

What Child is This?

Josiah Hall

The Big Question: How do we persevere in a fallen world when the expectation and joy of Christmas seem like distant memories?

God gives us two scenes of Heaven's throne-room to enable our faithful perseverance. (*Revelation 1:1-3*)

Scene 1: The Triune God enthroned as sovereign over all creation.

(*Revelation 4:6-11*)

Scene 2: The Triune God redeems and restores His creation through Christ.

(*Revelation 5:1-10*)

Reflection Questions

 (*taken in part from the Serendipity Study Bible for Groups*)

- What do you do to endure the dark winter months?
- What about life in a fallen world makes it hardest for you to believe that God is at work?
- The context of Revelation chs. 1–3 is a call to the seven churches to faithfully persevere in their faith. How does a vision of God on his throne (Rev 4:6–11) help us persevere?
- Why do you think John weeps that no one is worthy to open the scroll in Revelation 5:3–4?
- How does a vision of Jesus as a slain lamb (Rev 5:6) help us persevere?
- When you think of Jesus now, where is he? What is he doing? How does Jesus' presence in Heaven help us persevere? (Compare Rev 5:5–8 with Hebrews 10:12-14; John 14:1–7, 27–31; 1 John 2:1.)
- Revelation 5:9–10 describes the people Christ forms by His redemptive work. How does knowing that we are a part of this people help us persevere in a fallen world? What are some practical ways that living consistently with this description could look like?