

An open book with a red banner overlaying the text. The banner contains the title "FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK" in white, bold, uppercase letters. The background shows the pages of the book, which are slightly blurred, and a warm, golden light illuminating the scene.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

“....Behold, I make all things new.”

Revelation 21:5

From Pastor Díaz

In Psalm 19:1 the Psalmist stated: “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.” This is a declaration and proclamation of the glory and work of God. It is an invitation to contemplate the work of God’s hands and to worship Him. The display of his enormous power could be considered as part of his mission in this universe, with two distinctive elements.

The first one is creating everything that exists, visible or invisible. It presents his power to create objects and his immense power when he created life. Second, his mighty power is at work in this universe as he is transforming the things created by him that have been damaged by sin, so they could meet the demands of his divine holiness and will. By doing so, God is redeeming his creation and transforming those who have been created in his image and likeness, but have been affected by transgression of his laws. I am going to explain to you what I mean in the following paragraphs.

First, Jesus transformed the Jewish Passover meal into the Lord’s Supper. He gave a new meaning to the Jewish Passover meal. It is clear that the Lord’s Supper reenacts the Passover meal of the Jews during the time when they lived in Egypt. Before they departed from Egypt, God asked Moses to celebrate the Passover meal in anticipation of their freedom.

Then, the Lord’s Supper represents liberation for both Jews and Gentiles from their sins. The Lord Jesus Christ, in anticipation of his death and resurrection, transformed the ritual meal. Later on, Paul said to the church in Corinth, *“Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch, without yeast –as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb has been sacrificed.”* The yeast in the new batch represents sin. We are called to get rid of it because Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed to clean us.

Jesus transformed the Cross at Mount Calvary when this symbol of cruelty, punishment and death was transformed into a symbol of hope and new life. The cross, for the Jewish, meant the curse expressed in the Law for anyone who was hung on a cross. Jesus took away the curse by being hanged on a cross and the cross of Jesus became the symbol of glory. Paul said: *“May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.”* With his death on the cross, Jesus transformed the meaning of the cross meant for shame and sorrow into the central point of the preaching of the gospel.

The burial site where they placed the body of Jesus is no longer a place for sorrow and sadness, but a place for wonder and joy. It leaves us in silence because we can’t explain what took place there. The tomb is empty and the only place we can go for an answer is...not to the Roman or the Jewish authorities, but to the Christian community.

The testimonial evidence of his resurrection is in the New Testament and in the testimony of the Christian community. The good news, when we believe in it, is the transforming power of Jesus who changes the sinner into a saint, or a person who hates others into a loving and kind person.

God has the power to again create everything new. The heavens will disappear and the earth will disappear, too, according to the prophetic word of the book of Revelation. The entire cosmos will be created again. Heaven and earth have been contaminated by sin, so God will create all things new. He wants to transform you and me so that we may become like Jesus. He is offering us the new birth that transforms us and gives us the gift of salvation.

We are being born by water and the Spirit through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. We become new creatures by having faith in Jesus. We are becoming part of the New Creation that Jesus is making. Everything will be done in God's own time. We are part of this new creation in which God granted us the right to become His children by the power of His love.

Jesus became the first fruits of this new creation when he rose from the dead. Since then Jesus has a glorifying body and those who trust in his saving grace will be caught up in the air during his Second Coming. They will be transformed so they can be with the Lord forever. It is Paul who gives us the final touch to these words. He says, *"I am sure that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."*

Love and peace from God to all of you as we celebrate the love of Jesus in our lives, with our families, with friends in our faith community and in the rest of the world.