

*orchestra in which all the instruments played the same note.....".* In this concept every soul, being unique, has its individual place in heaven, made for it alone to worship and experience God in its own way. The union of our soul with God in heaven is an opening, an unveiling, a surrender of self to Him. It is as if our soul is a unique empty mould which is to be eternally filled with the grace and beauty and love of God.

A key element of this perception of C.S. Lewis is found in the CCC at paragraph 1025 where we are told that to live in heaven is to be with Christ where the souls find their true identity, their own name. It cites Revelation (2:17) where it relates that the Spirit says to the churches: *"To him who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone which no one knows except him who receives it"*. In 1999 Pope St John Paul stated that heaven is neither an abstraction nor a physical place in the clouds, but a living, personal relationship with the Holy Trinity. It is our meeting with the Father which takes place in the risen Christ through the communion of the Holy Spirit. Let us rejoice that by His resurrection Christ has opened for us the way to heaven.  
- **Stephen S.**

**Entrance Antiphon: I have risen, and I am with you still, alleluia. You have laid your hand upon me, alleluia. Too wonderful for me, this knowledge, alleluia, alleluia.**

**First Reading: Acts 10:34,37-43**

**Responsorial Psalm: 18 Response: This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad.**

**Second Reading: Colossians 3 1-4**

**Sequence**

**Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Christ, our Passover, has been sacrificed; let us celebrate the feast then, in the Lord. Alleluia!**

**Gospel: John 20: 1-9**

**Memorial Acclamation: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.**

**Communion Antiphon: Christ our Passover has been sacrificed, alleluia; therefore let us keep the feast with the unleavened bread of purity and truth, alleluia, alleluia.**



**Easter Sunday, Cycle B,  
2024 Weekly Reflection: From  
Suffering to Redemption: (4)  
Heaven** In the last 3 weeks I have discussed the problem of pain, purgatory and redemption. Yet all of these are no more than passing phases towards the destination of

Heaven, opened to us by the saving grace of God and the death and the Resurrection of Christ on Easter Sunday. The opening words of the Bible tell us that "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth". Jesus Himself said (Matthew 5:3) "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven". The Catechism of the Catholic Church ("CCC") tells us that heaven is the perfect life with the Most Holy Trinity, with the Virgin Mary, the angels and all the blessed, that heaven is the ultimate end and fulfilment of the deepest human longings, the state of supreme, definitive happiness; also, that it is beyond all understanding and description. This heavenly state and our inability to comprehend it are beautifully reflected in St John's letter (1, 3:2): "...we are God's children now; it does not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when He appears we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is....". St Paul encapsulated phrases from Isaiah when he wrote (1 Corinthians 2:9): "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived, what God has prepared for those who love Him".

In the first article I cited C.S Lewis' book "The Problem of Pain". The last chapter turns to the question of heaven. Lewis puts forward an opinion of his own. This opinion includes the proposition that each of us in heaven shall forever know and praise some one aspect of the divine beauty better than any other creature can. He continues: *"Why else were individuals created, but that God, loving all infinitely, should love each differently? ....If all experienced God in the same way and returned Him an identical worship, the song of the Church triumphant would have no symphony, it would be like an*