

**When a little kid runs too fast, falls down, skins a knee and starts to cry, a mother will come to the rescue. She will bend down, kiss the knee and heal it. Mothers can take what hurts and make it better.**

**In today's second reading we hear how God stoops down to people who hurt and makes it all better. "God will wipe every tear from their eyes," the Book of Revelation says. "And there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, for the old order has passed away."**

**Revelation is one of the most mysterious books of the bible. Some people believe it prophesies the end of the world, but many Catholic scripture scholars disagree. They say the book describes the past, not the future. It comforted Christians of the first century, whose spirits were broken by misunderstanding and persecution.**

**The Book of Revelation has a strange plot. One of the first characters is a lamb who was slain but is standing up. We have an image of that lamb in a stained glass window over there in the church, because it represents Christ. At the beginning of the book, God holds a scroll wrapped with seven seals and containing the plan of redemption. He hands it to the lamb. The lamb breaks open the seals, and each one unleashes some horrible event. Seven trumpets announce even more tribulation. A pregnant woman battles a dragon. Her child is born and escapes danger. Satan, the dragon, is expelled from heaven, but to continue his evil work, he sends two beasts, who attract followers of their own. Seven plagues are poured onto the earth from seven bowls, and these strike the followers of the beasts. The two beasts are cast aside, their followers are slain, and Satan joins the beasts in a place of utter destruction, a lake of fire. When all God's opponents are put away, dead Christians are raised to life, and then – near the end of the book – John sees the vision we hear today. Got it?**

**John writes, "I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more." And we hear the voice of God, saying, "Behold, I make all things new." God did not say, "I am going to make new things;" rather, he said "I make all things new." God takes what is old, what is hurt, what is beaten down, what is frightened, and makes it all new. When a mother kisses a skinned knee, the scar may remain, but the old knee is made new. Mel Gibson was so taken by this verse, that he pulled it from the Book of Revelation and put it on the lips of Jesus carrying the cross on the way to Calvary. Jesus, bloodied and bent, incongruously turns to his mother and says very meaningfully, "Behold, I make all things new."**

**In every life there are things that go wrong, days we wish we could take back, and hurts that never should have happened. We often wish that bad things would just go away. But God offers another solution. God can**

**transform what is bad. Like a lamb who was slain but now stands, all things – even bad things – can be made new.**