

**Christ our High Priest**  
**Hebrews 7:23-28**  
**October 27, 2024**

The text for today from Hebrews, begins with the pointing to priests before Christ who took care of the things done in the temple and especially those priests who served as the High Priest for a time. You might remember John the Baptist's dad who was one of the thought to be 84 priests who served in each period as prescribed. He took his turn as one of the Levitical priest to take care of the day to day worship at the temple with all its sacrifices for themselves and the people who gave the animals, grain and other items for their own sins and for gratitude for God for His work in their lives.

There were all sorts of rules and regulations for the priesthood. They were Levites from the tribe of Levi, chosen to serve the Lord in the office of priest. They were not given land in the promised land but were to take care of the tent of meeting and the temple that wasn't built until the time of Solomon.

We think of Jesus and His three fold position as Prophet, Priest and King. As the ultimate Prophet, He was fulfilling who the previous prophets prophesied. He prophesied many things as He lived out His life as THE prophet. He told of His going to the cross and rising in three days. He even looked to past prophesies as He was the fulfillment of them.

He also filled the role as King, as the people expressed their hope in Him being the King of the Jews, as those who lined the road as Jesus entered into Jerusalem that Palm Sunday. Even Pontius Pilate made reference to Him, many times at His trial, about Him being the King of the Jews and even had the sign above Jesus on the cross that stated, . . . *"This is Jesus, the King of the Jews". Matt. 27:37b*

So much evidence from God's Word of Jesus being the ultimate Prophet and King. The writer to the Hebrews in the text for today points to the last of the three. It points to Jesus being the ultimate High Priest.

Priests were to offer sacrifices for their own sins before offering up sacrifices for the sins of the people. The writer to the Hebrews, sees Jesus as the ultimate fulfillment of the Priestly office. He sees Jesus' sacrifice of Himself, His own blood as the perfect sacrifice and it was not His own sins that were offered up, but the sins of the whole world, past, present and future. He, as the the text states that Jesus was the perfect Son, the perfect sacrifice forever.

Jesus was the one talked about in the beginning that was to come to conquer Satan. Yes, He would be struck and yet, even though Jesus died, He rose again from the tomb and ascended to the right hand of God to rule, to be the judge, who satisfied God the Father by taking on the sins of the world and paying for the wages of sin that each of us should have been paid, death as Paul in his letter to the Romans stated: *Romans 6:23 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

We have been given a clean bill of health, spiritual health. Yes, all of our sins have been forgiven even though we continue to sin. Jesus has done it all for us. There is no need to bring sacrifices for another human to bring it before the Lord.

You might be thinking what about pastors or priests as the pastors in the Catholic Church are called. You experience the Pastor fulfilling a role and that is one who is called by the church, each individual church or groups of churches to perform certain duties. Yes, He is to tell of Jesus and what He has done and to bring prayers to Him and yet it is not He who is sacrificing for you. Yes, He is to proclaim forgiveness as He does every Sunday, as if it is from Jesus Himself but forgiveness for sins is not limited to Him. You, too, can ask for forgiveness and receive it from another in your everyday lives.

There is no need to make sacrifices anymore. Jesus' sacrifice is all that is needed. To somehow think anyone can make a sacrifice for themselves or for us is to make less of the sacrifice Christ made for us and all mankind. If you had given of yourself to accomplish something that cost you so much, how would you feel if someone wanted to hone in on your work, your sacrifice, your blood, sweat and tears, is how we put it?

When a person comes up with some new invention, some new process, we have the protection of patent and copyright laws to keep others from profiting from our work. Jesus did the ultimate work of creating a right relationship with God by living the perfect life and then dying the death that should have been ours so that we could be forgiven. We confess those sins and as is proclaimed to us time and time again, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

No doubt you have asked for and have given forgiveness. It should be a part of everyday life. Yes, in sinning we sin mainly against God but we also sin against others. What greater way can we maintain relationships with others than to recognize our sin

and look to get forgiveness, especially from the one we have sinned against. How many relationship would be saved if that was the case.

Jesus wants to keep His relationship with Him alive. He has done what He did on that cross for us. He rose from the tomb and now rules but He does even more. The writer points out that He is there so that we can draw near to God. It is through Him that we can do this. We, imperfect people are able to come into His presence because of Jesus who acts as our intercessor, to speak on our behalf, to point out we are sinless because He paid the price for our sin.

Think about it. What if you had broken the law and were taken court. The judge heard your case and assessed you with a large fine. What would he do if someone came to your rescue? What if this person came forward with a check for you fine? What would the judge do? What might he say?

He would have to let you go since the fine that was assessed was taken care of, even if you did nothing to pay. Oh, he might have something to say. He might say how great a friend he was who would pay for your mistake, your breaking the law. He might point out how you should be grateful to him and at least thank him for what he has done for you and for you to watch your step and not do anything that would require you to be in his court again.

Our court appearance was on the cross. Jesus hung there before the Judge, God the Father and was judged guilty for our sins. He sacrificed His perfect life blood for our sins. Jesus intercedes, pointing to that sacrifice, that payment and what happens? We are declared righteous because of His sacrifice for us.

The writer was writing to the Hebrews of who Jesus is, such a High Priest, greater than any other High Priest they were used to. We don't know of the times when their sacrifice cut into how they were providing for their families. I have talked of those sacrifices and how they were to bring a young one, a year old and it couldn't just be any old 1 year old lamb, it had to be a perfect one.

I have told of me and a neighbor going to buy some bulls. We went to the purebred breeder to pick out a couple bull. The breeder had a herd of bulls, about 25 to 30 in a pasture. As you looked over the herd, you could pick out two who were just a little better than the rest to look at. I'm sure if we were to have looked at there pedigree it would stand out as well. Even though there were other bulls that had the same sire, they only a different mother, or dam.

The breeder left those two guys with the herd to show buyers what kind of genetics would be distributed throughout the rest of the bulls. After looking at the bulls and the pedigrees and EPDs, we selected some bulls that would fit with our herds. EPDs are expected progeny differences, the expected differences that you should see if you use the bull on your herd. It is a scientific way to aid the buyer in selecting for things as ribeye area, yearling weights, birth weights and other traits you may be looking to improve in you herd or with their offspring.

If the one bringing the sacrifice sacrificed the best of his male lambs, he was trusting that the Lord would come through for him, even though he was sacrificing one of the two best "bulls". The genetics of that ram lamb which may influence 35 to 40 lambs/ year of his service, which would in a sense, be "lost".

It would be a great sacrifice, the sacrifice of the future of his flock. Yet, I imagine he would be thinking of the Lord and how the Lord would take care of him, his family, his flock and his future.

We know our families, our possessions and our futures are in the Lord's hands. We may bring out tithes and offerings to the Lord, yes, knowing those funds, could be used for ourselves but we also know we have those funds because of a good and gracious God who has blessed us with not only physical blessings but with as Paul begins his letter to the *Ephesians: 1:3-4 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.*

We have been blessed with Christ our High Priest. Yes, He is 100% human and 100% God. He intercedes for us with God because He chose to sacrifice Himself for us and all mankind. He did that not only for us, but for each and every person we meet.

We have been blessed with so much. What Jesus has done by being the High Priest that He is, flows out to others as well, even though they don't realize it or do not want to recognize it. We have been given the opportunity to tell of what He has done for them and that if they reject that work, that sacrifice on their behalf there is a devastating end awaiting them. Even if they don't believe it, the bridge is out and if they continue on in their doubt and unbelief, they will fall to their deaths, eternal deaths in hell where they will suffer forever.

Our High Priest is their High Priest. Lord help us to make it known to others.