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| **The High Priest Enters God’s Presence**  *Promise: Christ atones for our sins and then returns to deliver us* Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg 1 Kings 17:8-16; Psalm 146; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44 (25th Sunday after Pentecost – Pr. 27), 11/10/24)  *But as it is, [Christ] has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.* – v. 26b  **Lead In –** The worship of ancient Israel was not for the faint of heart. And given the harsh realities before the modern age, not many were faint of heart. The Hebrew worship in the Tabernacle was a bloody and smelly affair. Sheep, goats, and bulls were slaughtered in the courtyard. Their blood was variously poured, sprinkled, flung, and painted on the tent, the various altars, furnishings, and vessels in the Tabernacle. Then the priests would apply the blood on the lobe of their right ear, the thumb of their right hand, and the big toe of their right foot. Portions of the slaughtered animals were burnt on the outdoor altar as an offering to God with the smoke ascending to heaven. All this was not for the faint of heart.   1. **Hebrew Worship Patterned After Heavenly Realities**    1. Moses received incredibly detailed instructions…    2. This included the tabernacle, furnishings, priests, etc…    3. The demarcation of holy spaces… 2. **Understanding the Day of Atonement**    1. Yom Kippur is the holiest day of the yr in Judaism…    2. The High Priest Alone would enter Most Holy Place…    3. The shadow or copies themselves are inadequate… 3. **Our High Priest’s Return Again From the Sanctuary**    1. Christ’s sacrifice is perfect and finished (completed)!    2. Christ the High Priest is Interceding for us…    3. He will appear a second time to receive us…   **Final Word –** Come to think about it, authentic present-day worship is no less bloody than that of Ancient Israel. But the cutting of the throats of sheep, goats, and bulls for atonement are over. The perfect Ram, the innocent Lamb of God, shed His blood once for all on the Cross twenty centuries ago. Now the benefits of that sacrifice come to us by way of preaching, baptizing, and in Holy Communion. Blood without stain or smell. But for the faint of heart, it brings forgiveness, vitality, courage, and an unbelievable promise. When He comes again, He will save those eagerly waiting for Him.  **Ex 25:8-9** And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst. Exactly as I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle, and of all its furniture, so you shall make it.  **He 8:5** [The High Priest with his gifts and sacrifices] serve [as] a copy and shadow of the heavenly things. For when Moses was about to erect the tent, he was instructed by God, saying, “See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain.”  **He 9:2-5** For a tent was prepared, the first section, in which were the lampstand and the table and the bread of the Presence. It is called the Holy Place. Behind the second curtain was a second section called the Most Holy Place, having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's staff that budded, and the tablets of the covenant. Above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail. | Hebrews 9:24-28 ESV  *Christ Ascends to the Heavenly Sanctuary*  24For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. 25Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, 26for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. 27And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, 28so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.  **Ex 24:1-2** Then he said to Moses, “Come up to the Lord, you and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and worship from afar. Moses alone shall come near to the Lord, but the others shall not come near, and the people shall not come up with him.”  **He 9:6-7** These preparations having thus been made, the priests go regularly into the first section, performing their ritual duties, but into the second only the high priest goes, and he but once a year, and not without taking blood, which he offers for himself and for the unintentional sins of the people.  **He 10:1** For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near.  **He 10:11-12** And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God.  **He 9:22** Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.  **Ep 4:10** He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.  **Jn 19:30** When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.  **1Pe 3:18** For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.  **Ro 8:34** Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.  **Mt 25:34** Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. |