

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED ON THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

JESUS IS YOUR PERFECT HIGH PRIEST

Hebrews 7:26-27 “Such a high priest truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, He does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for His own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when He offered Himself.”

The writer to the Hebrews in chapter 7 presents Jesus as your high priest. In today’s devotional verses he states unequivocally, leaving no doubt that as your high priest he carries out his responsibilities perfectly. Jesus, unlike the Old Testament ones, was “holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens.” He therefore did not have to offer sacrifices for His own sins. He was sinless. He did offer the sacrifice of atonement in your behalf. However, unlike the Old Testament high priest offering that sacrifice annually, Jesus offered it only once. He offered Himself as the lamb, shedding His own holy blood, to cleanse you of your sins.

You therefore have a holy, perfect high priest and through Him and His sacrifice on Calvary’s cross, one whose blood cleanses you of all your sins. This forgiveness you receive by God’s grace through the faith He has given you in His Son. (Romans 3:25) This forgiveness is yours and also for the sins of all people. (1 John 2:2) Jesus is, as John the Baptist said, “The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.” (John 1:29)

Instead of an altar where lambs are offered daily for your sins, Jesus now offers you His very own body and blood in, with and under the bread and wine of Holy Communion. No further sacrifice is needed. His one-time sacrifice on Calvary’s cross is all that is needed. Yet, He instituted His supper for you to eat and to drink. The Small Catechism says, “The chief blessing of the Sacrament is the forgiveness of sins which Christ’s body and blood have won for you on the cross.” It is, the Catechism states, the means through which you receive God’s grace. Through this holy meal you receive forgiveness of your sins, eternal life, and salvation.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, my high priest, intercede with Your Father that He would grant me His forgiveness of all my sins for Your sake. Amen.

A HYMN PRAYER BEFORE RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray that we may feast on You today;
Beneath these forms of bread and wine Enrich us with Your grace divine.

Give us, who share this wondrous food, Your body broken and Your blood,
The grateful peace of sins forgiv'n, The certain joys of heirs of heav'n.

By faith Your Word has made us bold To seize the gift of love retold;
All that You are we here receive, And all we are to You we give.

One bread, one cup, one body, we, Rejoicing in our unity,
Proclaim Your love until You come To bring Your scattered loved ones home.

Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray; O keep us steadfast till that day
When each will be Your welcomed guest In heavn's high and holy feast.
(LSB 623)