

Redemption Through the Blood of Christ

The Epistle for the Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost is Hebrews 9:24-28. This reading is a back and forth in comparing the Levitical Priests to Jesus. The key phrase in this text is *once for all*. It summarizes Christ's priestly work.

- The priests entered the man-made holy places regularly. Jesus entered heaven once.
- The priests constantly offered sacrifices for the sins of the people including themselves. Jesus offered himself as a sacrifice for the sins of the world and did it only once.
- The priests entered the holy places every year with blood. Jesus shed his blood once for all.
- Jesus came to earth once to deal with the sins of all people. The next time he comes will be to bring eternal life to those who have been eagerly awaiting him.

Christ did not enter heaven to sacrifice for us daily but to pray for us. Romans 8:34 says: *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.*

The children of Israel anxiously waited for the priest to come out of the holy of holies to see if God had accepted the sacrifice. We wait confidently knowing that Jesus' sacrifice was accepted completely and that heaven is ours.

As we wait for that great day we are strengthened and sustained in our faith through the Word of God and the Sacraments. Our daily feeding on his Word gives us a confident hope for the resurrection and an eternity with Jesus.

Prayer: Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for doing the salvation work once and for all. Help us to use your gifts as we grow in our faith. Amen.