

Our High Priest Lives Forever!

1. Always Serving Us 2. Always Saving Us 3. Always Interceding for Us

Our High Priest Lives Forever!

- **“This is the day...rejoice, be glad in it.”** And know smthing, fellow Xians: let us rejoice that we can rejoice in it tog! This: very special Estr for us, bec last yr we couldn't be tog. Bec of CV, couldn't: gather tog for HW worship; celbrt res/J at ch; exchng ancient Estr greeting: Xp risen; indeed. But this yr can! So we do rejoice in this day & are glad in it!
- Today we celbrt res/J dead, greatest mrcl world's ever seen. God, becomes human to save humans, dies for humans, then comes back life, to rescue us from etnl death. This is how God shows wrld his heart/love. This is what he wants be known as: our self-sacrfcng Sav & our victorious King.
- Today's Estr joy comes right on heels our solemn obsrvnc GF. 2 days ago we saw J as our great HP, who made the ultmt scrfc pay our sins – not some animal scfrc at temple, but own life on cross! We looked at Heb 7: **“Unlike the other HPs... J scrfcd for their sins once for all when he offered himself” (27).** So in grand irony/GF, scrfc-r becomes scrfc! But today on ES, we see J come back life! So today we: turn back to Heb 7, to vss that come right before GF's sermon text, bec Heb 7 also speaks re how (and this'll be focus for today): how our HP lives forever! **Heb 7:23-26.**

Always Serving Us

- 1st, our HP lives forever, always serving us. There's lot ppl in this wrld who serve us. Luth prs/tchrs serve us w/GW. Parents serve us by raising us. Drs serve us w/med care. Mechncs service our cars. Lot ppl serve us. But can't serve us forever. Prs/tchrs take calls away; we grow up, move out parents' home; drs retire; mechncs move away. Finly, the ppl around us that help us: they envtly die – mortal, after all. No person can serve us forever.
- Unless that person is J. **Vs. 23-**(mortal, after all)-**24.** J: immortal. Means not going anywhere; not going leave us. Death cannot take him from us; it tried, but J defeated death and came back life. Now J has **“permnt priesthood.”** He's always serving. Serves us:
 - w/Gos, good news/slvtn, hear preached church, read/ponder homes – msg God's etnl love.
 - by hearing, answering our prayers. We have Sav who listens/acts, in wisdom and in our best interests. He hears & helps.
 - w/presnce; **“Nvr will I leave/forsake you” (Heb 13:5);** when evrone else leaves, J nvr will.
 - in scrmnt HB: washes away sins & adopts us into fam/God (so God, Fr; J, Bro; we, children).
 - in scrmnt HC: serving us a meal of his very body/bld, given/shed on cross for our forgvns.
- **Vs. 24.** Estr makes J the one, truly permanent/constant in our lives. Our HP is always serving us.

Always Saving Us

- And, he's always saving us. **Vs. 25a.** The salvtn J won for us by his death/res: absolutely complete; doesn't need be supplmtd, renwd, modified in any way. J said: finished! It's complete; he saves us completely. Means you can't commit a sin for which J'd say: 'No, sorry, I can't forgive that; that's too much; you went too far.' No, the forgiving grace/J extends over your entire life. So if there's some dark transgression from your past that still haunts you; or if there's some temptation you try to fight vs, but you're ashamed that you fall into same sin again/again; or if you look back on life w/regret for all sinful mistakes you've made – you need know: J forgives you, completely! J's payment for sin on cross was not a partial payment; was complete payment. **Vs. 25a.**
- And if you've been saved completely, that really impacts both your future & present. As far as your future: if you bel in J as Sav, when you die, you'll go hvn & live forever. J died, but now he's risen & lives forever. By faith in J, someday you will rise, live forever too. That's your future.

- As far as your present: if you have comfort of Res Gos of Xp in your heart by faith, that means: you don't have be afraid of death! You are united to the death-defeater himself, JC, the living one! Death no longer makes us afraid, bec we have J! W/o J, death would/should terrify us. We would live fearful, hopeless lives, fighting our hardest to prevent or postpone death as long as possible. But we don't have to live like that, bec we know that: **J is able...vs. 25a**. There's an evening hymn our hymnal: *Teach me to live that I may dread the grave as little as my bed. Teach me to die so that I may rise glorious on the awe-full [or, awe-filled] day (CW 592:2)*. That's confidence in J's complete salvtn! Now look: we're all guilty of letting sinful fears cloud our Xian confdnce. But the Estr Gos's brightness breaks thru that fog/fear, dread/death, and fills us with renewed faith in J's promise: **"Bec I live, you also will live" (Jn 14:19)**. And so, bec of Estr, bec of res/J, we are not filled w/fear. We're filled w/faith, in Xp, our risen & living Sav, who **"is able to save completely."** Always saving us.

Always Interceding for Us

- Finally, our HP J is always interceding for us. **Vs. 25**. To intercede (not esp common word) means: go btwn 2 ppl, speak to one on behalf of other, and try reconcile their diffncs. Bascly means make friends out of enemies. Bec of our sinful nature, God was our enemy; we sinned vs him; he rightfully angry. But J came to intercede for us. OT priests would intercede for ppl – in 2 ways: 1) by offering scrfcscs to God for ppl's sins; and 2) by praying to God for ppl.
- On GF we saw J as our HP sacrificing his own live, as our substt, to pay for our sins. But now, J still intercedes for us by praying for us. Isa 53 (heard GF): **"[J] bore the sin of many and made intercession for the transgressors" (12)**. And Rom 8: **"Xp J who died – more than that, was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us" (34)**. These psgs teach us that J constantly speaks to Fr, in prayer, on our behalf. He's alwas asking Father to: guard/protect us from harm; defend us from temptation; strengthen our Xian faith; forgive all our sins, for the sake of his innocent death on cross and glorious res on Estr. J always has us on his mind; he always has our names on his lips. He's our HP who's always praying/interceding, for us.

Let Us Rejoice and Be Glad!

- That's the kind of HP we have: one who's always serving us, always saving us, always interceding for us. Our lesson concludes: **vs. 26**. And that's where J is now, exalted above hvns, not moldering away in some Judean tomb. J came back to life; and now our HP lives forever! And that's what we're celebrating today on this glorious ES! **"This is the day...rejoice, be glad in it."**

Hebrews 7:23-26

²³ Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; ²⁴ but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. ²⁵ Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. ²⁶ Such a high priest truly meets our need – one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens.

