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Devotion for April 18th, 2022

"Now even the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly place of holiness. 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 cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail. These preparations having 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. By this the Holy Spirit indicates that the way into the holy places is not yet opened as long as the first section is still standing (which is symbolic for the present age). According to this arrangement, gifts and sacrifices are offered that cannot perfect the conscience of the worshiper."

- Hebrews 9:1-9

These verses are a description of the tabernacle that God told Moses to construct. It was a replica of the temple in heaven, which is perfect. The tabernacle later gave rise to the temple in Jerusalem.

Notice in these verses that the high priest is the only one allowed into the Most Holy Place and only after a blood sacrifice for himself and the people. He was only allowed into the Most Holy Place once a year on the Day of

Atonement. This is when the high priest would make sacrifices for the sins of the children of Israel. The Most Holy Place contained the Ark of the Covenant on top of which was the Mercy seat of God, where God was present.

All of this changed when Jesus brought us a new covenant based on faith and not on the law. Listen to what happened when Jesus died on the cross for all our sins. He was the perfect sacrifice, no other sacrifice will ever be needed.

"And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed His last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom." ([Mark 15:37-38](#))

My friends, Jesus is our perfect high priest that requires no personal sacrifice to enter the Most Holy Place in heaven, because He is sinless. He has entered the Most Holy Place and is at His Father's side and advocates for you and for me. He has torn the curtain to the Most Holy Place on earth as a symbol of an open path to our Father in heaven as His children. We can come to our Father in prayer. Jesus said that what we ask for in His name the Father will give us.

*In Christ,
Rev. John Kyle, Associate Pastor
Grace Lutheran Church & School*

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