

In the name of our Triune God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

¹ Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess. ² He was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses was faithful in all God's house. ³ Jesus has been found worthy of greater honor than Moses, just as the builder of a house has greater honor than the house itself. ⁴ For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything. ⁵ Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's house, testifying to what would be said in the future. ⁶ But Christ is faithful as a son over God's house. And we are his house, if we hold on to our courage and the hope of which we boast. **This is God's Word.**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Have you ever been called holy? Have you ever described one of your kids as "holy?" While we love our children and grandchildren and we love our spouse and family members, holy is not a word we would probably even think of to describe them. The word holy means perfect – free from sin. When we think of holy we usually think of God. Yet, that is what the writer to the Hebrews calls us – holy. We are holy because we are connected to Jesus through faith and so the writer encourages us to, **"Fix our Thoughts on Jesus."** **"He is faithful as Moses was,"** and yet, **"He is worthy of greater honor than Moses,"** and finally, **"He is the fulfilment of what Moses testified to."**

I. "Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess." This is the only place in scripture where Jesus is called an apostle. An apostle is one who is sent out and Jesus was sent out by his Father with a specific mission – to be the Savior of the world; to be our Savior.

And he is also called a high priest. The high priest offered sacrifices for the sins of the people and many times you have heard me say that Jesus, our high priest, offered himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of the people – yours and mine included. And that is what we confess.

As brothers and sisters in Christ, united by our common faith in Jesus, we confess that he is our Savior. He is the one who makes us holy – holy because we are forgiven. Holy because Jesus' perfect sacrifice enables us to be declared "not guilty" of our sins. Holy because of the faith that is in our hearts.

And so, as we confess Jesus and fix our thoughts on him the writer tells us, **"He was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses was faithful in all God's house."** Moses was faithful to his calling as the leader of God's people but Moses was not perfect. He loved God's people but at times his anger boiled against them. But Christ was faithful to his heavenly Father in every way.

Jesus was perfect in everything he did. He never gave into temptation. He fulfilled all of the Old Testament prophecies that talked about him. He willingly allowed himself to be arrested and crucified in our place. Because of his faithfulness for us, his Father raised him from the dead and

exalted his human nature. He is now in heaven interceding for us and ruling for the benefit of all believers.

Sometimes we forget about how hard it is to be perfect because we will never achieve that sinless status on this side of heaven. Many times we take the faithfulness of Jesus for granted – thinking that it was easy for him, but never forget that he was tempted in every way as we are and yet he was without sin. So fix your thoughts on Jesus and rejoice – rejoice that he is our Savior and that he brings us forgiveness for all of our sins. Rejoice that he is faithful to his Father for us. Rejoice because through faith in him, you are holy. That is why the writer tells us that Jesus is worthy of greater honor than Moses.

II. “Jesus has been found worthy of greater honor than Moses, just as the builder of a house has greater honor than the house itself. ⁴ For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything.” When we lived in Boise, ID they had a parade of homes every year. There would be about 30 homes, all new construction, that would be open to the public. It was fun to see some of these homes, especially the really expensive ones and to see some of the new innovations in building. But as we looked at the homes, the builder’s names were always prominently displayed because those great houses were there only through the efforts of the builder.

That’s the idea or picture the writer is trying to use here to show us the greater honor that Jesus deserves – even greater than Moses. It might be hard to understand why the writer would make this comparison at all, but remember that in the eyes of a Jewish person, Moses was one of the great patriarchs.

And so in this picture we have to understand that the house is the Church and the builder is God. Therefore, Jesus, who is God, is the builder of everything and Moses, a faithful servant of God, is part of the house that God built.

Another way of putting it is that Jesus is the owners Son while Moses is the owner’s servant. Both have a role and yet the Son receives a higher honor than the servant. What does this mean for us? Well, we have to look at who or what we worship. To whom do we give the most honor?

Some folks might be tempted to worship the saints or to even think that their relatives in heaven can somehow do something for them. While the saints, which are really all believers and in this context all believers in heaven, did great things, they can’t help us.

They don’t hear prayers and would even shudder at the thought that someone might actually pray to them. Yet how often don’t we put our faith in something/someone else other than Christ? Scripture reminds us that Christ was there creating the world – that he has created us and not only created us but redeemed us. We are his own and so we want to honor and praise him as our Savior and the only true God – the creator of the universe and the fulfilment of all of the Father’s promises. Jesus is the foundation of our faith and the foundation of the Church – not a physical building but the Church is made up of all believers – God’s people. Jesus is the reason we have spiritual life and the reason we are part of the Church so We want to keep Jesus at the center of our lives and give him the greatest honor.

III. “Moses was faithful as a servant in all God’s house, testifying to what would be said in the future. ⁶ But Christ is faithful as a son over God’s house. And we are his house, if we hold on to our courage and the hope of which we boast.” The **Old Testament lesson** read earlier in our service was written by Amos. It pointed to the unfaithfulness of God’s people and of the world all around us. It encouraged us to remain faithful to God’s Word and to hold on to God’s promises.

In the Gospel lesson Jesus was encouraging the young man to put Jesus at the center of his life but the young man chose the riches of the world instead.

What do we hold on to and when asked about our faith, what is our answer or testimony? Sometimes it is hard to be a Christian but God’s Word can give us encouragement and courage to testify about our Savior. We can boast in all that Jesus has done for us and continues to do for us. Just as Moses gave a faithful testimony, so we can too.

As you think about the words before us today,

Remember that you are holy – redeemed and made holy by the blood of Jesus – our perfect high priest.

Remember that like Moses, we are servants of God – a God who not only created us but also redeemed us.

Remember that as believers in Christ, we are all part of God’s house – the Holy Christian Church.

May that bring us peace and comfort today and always as we continue to fix our eyes on Jesus. Amen.