Our scripture this morning comes from Hebrews 6:19-20. While you’re finding that, Four pastors decided to go golfing. As they were on vacation, they decided to dress so no one would guess they were pastors.  As they finished the ninth hole, their caddy suddenly asked, "Are you guys pastors?" Shocked, one answered, “Yes we are. How did you know?" “It’s obvious. I've never heard such clean language going with such bad golf!”

**Hebrews 6:19-20 This *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the *Presence* behind the veil, 20where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.**

Today we celebrate both Thanksgiving and pastor appreciation day. We turn our eyes toward thankfulness for Jesus, our High Priest. He is to be appreciated, not just today but all days. I hope we all woke this morning with a burning appreciation for what He has done.

There are two types of appreciation. There’s passive appreciation and there’s active appreciation. Passive appreciation is when the window gets your order right at Burger King; passive appreciation is nodding in approval that the artist got that sunset just right in the painting.

Then there’s active appreciation. This is what we are to feel for Jesus! Verse 19 says that He is our hope. He is the anchor of our soul. When He entered God’s Presence behind the veil, He took a tether with Him and we’re attached! We cannot be moved; we cannot be snatched from His hand. We are surely and steadfastly anchored to our eternal home because of His work. This must be actively appreciated, actively praised, actively recognized! This is reason for singing before the Lord. This is reason for Joy bursting forth from our very souls! Jesus didn’t get our order right at the window at Burger King – He didn’t get us a great parking spot at Walmart! He did what we could not do! He saved our souls by being the forerunner entering the gates of Heaven and preparing a place for us!

But this High Priest didn’t just do the work and stop. Hebrews 7:25 tells us that Jesus makes intercession for us before God continually. Romans 8:26 says that the Holy Spirit He sent to us makes intercession for us with groanings that cannot be uttered. We will be eternally grateful as we walk the streets of Heaven for His sacrifice and His intercession. Our hope is anchored in eternity through His sacrifice – we can never appreciate that enough!

Are we Thankful this morning? 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 says Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Rejoice always – even in sickness, even in hardship, even in loss. Focusing on all the negative is not rejoicing! Philippians 4:4 says, Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! When we appreciate Jesus, we rejoice! Not passive – Active! Active rejoicing! Active sharing of how good God is! Active focus on His blessings!

Pray without ceasing. This is worship! Constant connection with Jesus – relationship! We are to stay in fellowship with Him at all times. The other morning I woke and rolled to get my phone – not realizing how close I was to the side – down I went – wham on the floor! While I was kneeling there, I thanked God for not being hurt and prayed for a great day! No relationship thrives when communication dies – I’ll say that again – NO relationship thrives when communication dies. Prayer is our communication with Christ. I heard a parent the other day say that the only time the child called was in times of trouble or need…. Is this the only time Jesus hears from you? Does He hear thankfulness? Does He hear appreciation? Does He hear the good news and happiness? He should! He must!

In everything, gives thanks. Gratefulness drives action – we serve others as an outpouring of thankfulness. We visit others because we are thankful. We pray for others because we are thankful. In all things, be grateful.

Our High Priest – highly to be praised! We are to rejoice, to worship, to thank Him. This week make a commitment to praise our Anchor. Make this week a week of Thanksgiving – praising Jesus as never before. May we open our hearts and minds and recognize Him, really recognize Him for what He has done for us.