***Hebrews 4:15-16 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.***

What a wonder it is to serve our God through His Son Jesus Christ! What a wonder it is to know that we have access to our Creator, when the events of this world seem to go off the rails. Grace, Mercy, Understanding, an Advocate dwelling within us and an Advocate anchored behind the veil, both interceding on our behalf, knowing our weaknesses. Romans 8:26 - *Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered*. Romans 8:34 - *Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us*. We don’t just have a disconnected lawyer, reading our case file, but a High Priest, intimately aware of our weaknesses.

Earlier in Hebrews 4, we’re assured of the promise of entering His rest. Anyone else here this morning feel like you might be able to use a little rest? Anyone else reeling, as blow after blow lands clean on the chin? The Hebrews reading this letter would clearly recognize the coming judgement described in verse 12 - *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.* (Who can stand?)*.* Verse 13*And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.* No one! Every creature is laid bare. Give account for that word, that deed, that thought – both the ones that you did and the ones you didn’t do that you should have done! Required to stand and offer excuse… and we know we can’t. We are without excuse, as Romans 1 tells us. What are we to do?

Verse 14 - *Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession*. We hold fast our confession of Jesus, as Lord and Savior, as Master and King. We hold, but the best news is – He holds us. 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,****20****where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.* What are we to do? Confess and rest in Jesus. But I don’t want this to be a Hebrew class. I want it to be a Hope class… because we all need a little rest and we all need a great Hope – Jesus, High Priest.

Verse 15 – *For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.* In the hymn What a Friend We Have in Jesus, we sing - Jesus knows our every weakness, take it to the Lord in prayer. He knows our trials, tribulations, temptations, and troubles and He can sympathize, why? Because in all points, meaning in all the ways humans can be tempted, He was tempted. The way the temptations came may have looked different, but the temptations of life have not changed. 1 Corinthians 10:13 says – *No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man.* Lust of the eye, lust of the flesh, pride of life. The faces and places may change, but the temptations are the same. He was tempted in all ways and to an even more intense degree, yet He did not sin. 1 John 3:5 says - *And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and****in Him there is no sin****.* Fully God, fully Man, knows our weaknesses, and has compassion anyway.

Verse 16 - *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.* Let us therefore – because we are assured of rest, because we are holding our confession, because we know He has anchored us and is interceding for us – Let us therefore come boldly, confidently, because we know the Priest we’re talking with, and we know He loves us. We come as someone welcomed into the Presence of the Mightiest King, finding there, not a scepter of separation or a throne of condemnation, but a throne of Grace. Anyone here overjoyed that, in times when help is needed, in times that we have messed up, in times we don’t have any idea what to do, that there is a throne of Grace, for us to come boldly and confidently before? I hope so! And what are we sure to find there? Not a wagging finger or a disappointed look, but we obtain mercy… oh, whewwww!... and we find grace. We obtain mercy and we find grace when we come boldly, by invitation, to the throne of Grace. If nothing else makes us cry today, that right there…. And what does this mercy we’ve obtained and this grace we’ve found do for us, as we slog through this hammering of hardships that we call life? HELP in time of need, provided through our High Priest, Who has compassion on us, knows our every weakness, and intercedes on our behalf with the very Source of every good gift and every perfect gift we will ever need. What an encouragement this morning.

This week, are we coming boldly to the throne of Grace, knowing the God of Grace that we’ll find there? Do we feel welcome and loved or timid and ashamed? Are we coming as condemned or cleansed? He has rest for us. He sympathizes with us. He knows us. Let’s boldly seek Him there because He understands what we’re there for.