



# ADVENT

rest, receive, return, repeat

## ❧ HEBREWS 1:1-3 ❧

<sup>1</sup> In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.

## ❧ HEBREWS 1:1-3 ❧

³ The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

# THEME OF THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

- Hebrews was written to Jewish Christians.
- The author feared that they were being tempted to return to Judaism.
- In doing so, they would forsake their uncompromising devotion to Jesus Christ.

# OUTLINE OF THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

## Chapters 1-3

Jesus Christ is superior to all others in creation: the angels and even the revered Moses.

## Chapters 4-10

Jesus is our great high priest, who both offers a sacrifice to atone for our sins and indeed offers himself as the once-and-for-all-time sacrifice.

## Chapter 11

The great hall of fame of faith of the Old Testament saints, none of whom received the promises realized only in Jesus Christ.

## Chapters 12-13

Exhortations to live out various aspects of our faith journey by keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.



# ADVENT

rest, receive, return, repeat

## ❧ HEBREWS 2:14-18 ❧

<sup>14</sup> Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—<sup>15</sup> and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

## ❧ HEBREWS 2:14-18 ❧

<sup>16</sup> For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. <sup>17</sup> For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God...



## ❧ HEBREWS 2:14-18 ❧

...and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup> Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.



# ADVENT

rest, receive, return, repeat

## ❧ HEBREWS 4:14-16 ❧

<sup>14</sup> Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. <sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses...

## ❧ HEBREWS 4:14-16 ❧

...but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. <sup>16</sup> Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

# THE IMITATION OF CHRIST: THE PROGRESSION FROM TEMPTATION TO SINFUL BEHAVIOR

- First, the thought is allowed to enter our minds.
- Second, the imagination is sparked by the thought.
- Third, we feel a sense of pleasure at the fantasy, and we entertain it.
- Fourth and finally, we engage in the evil action, assenting to its urges.

This is how, little by little, temptations gain entrance and overcome us if they are not resisted at the very beginning.

## ❧ HEBREWS 10:19-22 ❧

<sup>19</sup> Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup> by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, <sup>21</sup> and since we have a great priest over the house of God...

## ❧ HEBREWS 10:19-22 ❧

<sup>22</sup> Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.



# ADVENT

rest, receive, return, repeat



# The Three “R.s”

**Rest** in the knowledge of who Jesus is:

- **The incarnate Son of God**
- **Our great high priest who offers the perfect sacrifice of his own life as an atonement for our sins**

# The Three “R.s”

**Receive** the glorious blessings that his sacrifice has made available:

- **Forgiveness of sins**
- **Release from the guilt and shame that sin brings**
- **Mercy and grace that our advocate in heaven wants to extend to us**
- **Access to the Father’s throne of grace**

# The Three “R.s”

## Return

- **To God: thanks, worship, the sacrifice of praise**
- **To others: we are to do good and share with others and to encourage them in their spiritual journey**



# ADVENT

rest, receive, return, repeat

**If you would like personal prayer today, please meet with a Prayer Team member in the Care Room in the back of the Worship Center at the end of the service.**

