

# SAINT THOMAS CHURCH

*Fifth Avenue · New York City*

## Sermon Outline

Holy Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> April 2022

Lord Bishop Sentamu

5:30 p.m.

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Reading: Hebrews 9:11-15

Theme: Living a Jesus Christ Shaped Life

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Under the Old Covenant only the *High Priest* was permitted into the **inner sanctuary** (beyond the second curtain) to atone for his own and his family's sins.

The New Covenant brings a **new order** (v 10): **Christ as High Priest** provides the one perfect sacrifice effective for **eternal liberation/redemption** (v.12). Being **without blemish** His sacrifice achieves an inward cleansing for **all** God's people in Christ.

*"For if the blood of goats and bulls ...sanctifies those who have been defiled..., how much more will the blood of Christ, who offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to worship the living God!" (Hebrews 9:13-14). What a declaratory statement and question!*

We are a people most blessed by our High Priest, Jesus Christ! A sacrifice need no longer be made each year, for Jesus of Nazareth, our great High Priest, **"entered once,"** and only once, for all, **thus securing an eternal redemption"** (verse 12).

Alleluia! What a Saviour!

We are redeemed **for ever**, because **"You died; and now your life lies hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you too will be revealed with him in glory"** (Colossians 3:3-4).

Yes, we can never be un-redeemed. This redemption is not for a season; it is an **eternal redemption for the world.** (Hebrews 9:13-15).

How?

- **By what Jesus Christ did:** He offered HIMSELF willingly as pure Gift.
- **By who he is:** The Christ (The Lord) "Predestined before the foundation of the world" (1 Peter 1:20).
- **By what he longs to do with members of his Body on earth:** Cleansing and purifying our conscience to serve the living God (verse 14b). How? By filling us with the Holy Spirit **DAILY!** For he is the living vine in whom we live.
- **With such amazing love,** that I must respond by **serving him.** And together we make him **VISIBLE** by being salt and light for all the world.
- **With such amazing love,** that we must **all serve him.**

How? By **desiring to dwell in the Life of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

And asking that he grafts in us the **GIFT** of service, self-denial and sacrifice.

For **"we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the life of good deeds, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life"** (Ephesians 2:10). Our DNA as redeemed children of God by **Adoption and Grace** is to live - a Jesus Christ Shaped Life.