

7. Where to go from here?

a. *Links to Holy Week and Easter*

The traditional readings for Holy Week and Easter, especially the Passion accounts of each gospel read on the weekdays of Holy Week with John's account on Good Friday, will richly retell and bring home the teachings and beauties found in Hebrews. What was explained and expounded in Hebrews is told in the Passion accounts of the gospels. The preacher should take the opportunities the Passion accounts provide to explicate all that has been heard and preached throughout Lent.

This focus on the Passion accounts and the gospel readings for Easter Vigil and Easter Day will allow the hearers to see how the entire Old Testament and New Testament are bound together by the gospels, and within each gospel the evangelist ties everything together artfully in the death and resurrection of Jesus. If the midweek series opened up how the Old Testament finds its completion and true depth in the New Testament, the sermons for Holy Week and Easter will open up how all of Scripture finds its completion and true depth in the death and resurrection of Christ.

A hearer who has listened to the sermons from Heb. 2 onwards will know that one cannot understand Jesus's priesthood or His sacrifice without knowing the Old Testament, both its stories and its commands. He will have learned about Melchizedek and the great promises made to David. He will know how the Psalms find their fulfillment in Christ and His ministry. He will see how Hebrews interprets all things in light of Christ. By Holy Week and Easter the hearer and the preacher will both be extremely well-prepared to understand how and why the gospels refer so much to the Old Testament and what the center of each gospel is: the good news of Jesus's atoning sacrifice and indestructible resurrection life.

The Catechism as a little handbook for the Christian life will also be better understood. Since Luther placed the 2nd Article of the Creed at its center, this series will help the Christian understand how and why the sacrifice and priesthood of Jesus are so central to his faith and the church's life. None of us is anything without the blood Christ shed and the life He now lives forever. Whether the 2nd Article has been the focus of each week's service or the preacher has used the option to find many points of contact between Hebrews and the Catechism, the Christian will be better equipped for faith and for life.

b. *Recommended reading*

John Kleinig, *Hebrews*, Concordia Commentary (Saint Louis: Concordia, 2017).

Martin Luther, *Lectures on Titus, Philemon, and Hebrews*, Luther's Works, Vol. 29, ed. Jaroslav Pelikan (Saint Louis: Concordia, 1968).

Albrecht Peters, *Commentary on Luther's Catechisms: Creed*, trans. Thomas H. Trapp (Saint Louis: Concordia, 2011).

C. F. W. Walther, "The Reconciliation and Redemption of the Human Race," *Walther's Works: All Glory to God* (Saint Louis: Concordia, 2016), 65-78.