**Date** – July 3, 2022

**Sermon Series** – Fearfully & Wonderfully Made

**Sermon Title** – The Son’s Body – “Our Dumpster Diving God”

**Scripture** – Hebrews 2:14-18 ESV

*14 Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. 16 For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. 17 Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. 18 For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.*

**Big Idea** – Jesus came in the flesh so he could destroy our accuser and deliver us to our home with him.

**Summary** – Jesus became human, just like you and I are human. There are two questions Randy asked related to this statement. The first is – what does it mean that Jesus came in flesh and blood? As Paul says in verse 14a, “*he himself likewise partook of the same things*” – same things meaning the same aspects of being human. Verse 17a says, “He *had to be made like his brothers in every respect.*” This verse is written in passive voice. He didn’t do this to himself; it was done to him by God the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit.

“To partake of the same things” means that the God who created everything – seen and unseen – this God stepped into his creation, as if a painter stepping into his painting and inhabiting that world and being subject to that world.

It means he had a human psychology. His mind was subject to the same laws of perception, memory, logic and development as our own. He had human emotions. He felt joy, sorrow, anger, grief. And he felt such distress from life’s pressures, it was as if his life was threatened. It means he felt excruciating pain from being beaten and flogged and wounded and nailed to a Roman cross. He experienced death and was wrapped in grave clothes; He was buried.

He felt temptation; the temptation of sexual immorality; the temptation of reacting at being disrespected; the temptation to revenge at being misunderstood and gossiped about. He felt the temptation of greed; He felt the temptation to abandon his Father's will for short term relief. He felt what it was like to be absolutely and utterly alone. When he was in the Garden of Gethsemane, the night before his crucifixion, Jesus felt utterly abandoned.

That leads to the second question. Why? For what purpose? That “answer is found in verse 14b – “*that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil*.” And verse 17b – “*that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people*.” He came that through his death, he might destroy – that word means to render powerless, to disarm. The serpent is still the serpent but he is a de-fanged serpent. Christ did not come in the flesh to make peace with Satan. He came to render him powerless. He came to do combat, to deactivate Satan’s deceptive activity.

**Questions** –

* While we celebrate the 4th of July holiday, Randy reminded us that Hebrews 2:14-18 is the only news that will unite our country. It is the cure for the divisiveness that is rampant in our country. Why do you think that is true?

Do you think that is possible?

* Randy shared the story of the man who lost his car keys while eating at an all-you-can-eat rib restaurant. To find the keys, he had to sort through the piles of rib bones, beans, barbecue, corn, cake, coleslaw, and a host of saliva-soaked napkins in the dumpster. It was an unwelcome, messy effort, but it had to be done and no one else was going to do it. Randy called Jesus “Our Dumpster Diving God.” What did he mean by that?
* Jesus became the greatest Sinner there ever was. No one feared death so much as this man. He feared it because for him there would be no mercy in it. His death was cruel and pitiless. He was totally exposed to God's abhorrence of sin. And he would face death without his Father. On the cross, Jesus was completely on his own. The wonder of the love of Christ is not that for our sake he faced death without fear, but that for our sake, he faced it, terrified. He took damnation without complaint. **He became what he was not so that we could become what HE IS!** What thoughts do you have as you consider this perspective?
* Some of these verses contain *purpose clause statements. He put on flesh → So that he might destroy → So that he might deliver → So that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest → So that he might make propitiation for the sins of the people.* Explain in your own words what “propitiation” means.
* What does it mean to you that we have a “merciful and faithful high priest?”
* *When Martin Luther was tormented with guilt over his past; he would talk back to the Devil: “ I am baptized! I am baptized*!” What did he mean by that?
* If you are in Christ, you will not expire when your human heart expires. To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. We will not cease to be with Jesus in the life to come. Just as he came to be like us in every way except sin, in the new heavens and the new earth, we will be like him. What beliefs does our culture have about heaven?

What is the Biblical truth about what waits for us in Heaven?