"The Greatest Gift"

I. Jesus came to make us holy

"For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight." (Ephesians 1:4)

A. We share in the eternal life of Jesus

"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)

"He who has the Son has life, he who does not have the Son does not have life." (I John 5:12)

B. We share in the holy nature of Jesus

"Be holy, because I am holy." (I Peter 1:6)

"He has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature." (2 Peter 1:4)

C. We share in the blessed family of Jesus

"Yet to all who received him, to those who believe in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." (John 1:12)

"How great is the love the Father has lavished on us that we should be called the children of God! And that is what we are!" (I John 3:1)

D. We share in the glory of Jesus

"Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world." (John 17:24)

- II. Jesus came to set us free
 - A. Through his life he shared our humanity

"The Word because flesh and lived for a while among us." (John 1:14)

B. Through his death he destroyed the devil's power

"For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." (Colossians 1:13)

C. Through his resurrection he sets us free from the fear of death

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live even though he dies." (John 11:25)

- III. Jesus came to intercede for us
 - A. Jesus is our merciful high priest

"Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess." (Hebrews 4:14)

B. Jesus is faithful to the <u>nature of God</u>

C. Jesus is the atoning sacrifice for our sins

"Because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them." (Hebrews 7:24-25)

D. Jesus is ready and willing to help us

"Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and grace to help us in out time of need." (Hebrews 4:16)