

Before the Throne of God Above by Charitie Lees Smith, 1863

We have a great high priest. He has gone up into heaven. He is Jesus the Son of God. So let us hold firmly to what we say we believe. We have a high priest who can feel it when we are weak and hurting. We have a high priest who has been tempted in every way, just as we are. But he did not sin. So let us boldly approach God's throne of grace. Then we will receive mercy. We will find grace to help us when we need it.

– Hebrews 4:14-16, New International Reader's Version

Before the throne of God above, I have a strong, a perfect plea, a great high Priest whose Name is Love, who ever lives and pleads for me.	Before the throne of God above	Throne: a king's chair, from which he holds court
	I have a strong, a perfect plea	Plea: a person's response when they are accused in court
	A great high Priest whose Name is Love	Priest: a human representative who makes an offering to God for sin
	Who ever lives and pleads for me	<i>The priest Jesus lives forever and speaks in my defense.</i>
My name is graven on His hands. My name is written on His heart. I know that while in heaven He stands, no tongue can bid me thence depart.	My name is graven on His hands	Graven: written with a tool
	My name is written on His heart	
	I know that while in heaven He stands	<i>I know that while Jesus is in heaven.</i>
	No tongue can bid me thence depart	No tongue: no one's words Can bid me: can command me Thence: from that place Depart: to go away
When Satan tempts me to despair, and tells me of the guilt within, upward I look and see Him there, who made an end to all my sin.	When Satan tempts me to despair	Satan: the devil, the accuser, the most evil being Tempt: to influence someone to do something wrong Despair: hopelessness
	And tells me of the guilt within	<i>Satan reminds me of the ways that I fail to meet God's standard.</i>
	Upward I look and see Him there	<i>I look up and see Jesus.</i>
	Who made an end to all my sin	Sin: the wrong things we do, missing God's standard <i>God put all my sin on Jesus. When Jesus died, sin was killed. Jesus died to free me from the power and death penalty of sin.</i>

<p>Because the sinless Savior died, my sinful soul is counted free. For God the just is satisfied to look on Him and pardon me.</p>	Because the sinless Savior died	Sinless: without sin Savior: the one who saves
	My sinful soul is counted free	Sinful: full of sin
	For God the just is satisfied	Just: making a right decision
	To look on Him and pardon me	Him: Jesus Pardon: to release from the penalty of wrong-doing
<p>Behold Him there! The risen Lamb. My perfect spotless righteousness. The great unchangeable I am. The King of glory and of grace.</p>	Behold Him there the risen Lamb	Behold: to look at Lamb: an offering to cover sin Risen: got up again after dying
	My perfect spotless righteousness	Spotless: clean, without stain Righteousness: being made right with God
	The great unchangeable I am	Unchangeable: can't be changed I am: God's personal name
	The King of glory and of grace	Glory: very high honor and fame, very bright Grace: a free gift we don't deserve
<p>One with Himself, I cannot die. My soul is purchased by His blood. My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ my Savior and my God!</p>	One with Himself I cannot die	<i>I am united with Jesus, who died and came back to life again. So, I will not be separated from God in death. When I die, God will bring me back to life, and I will live forever.</i>
	My soul is purchased by His blood	<i>Jesus paid for me on the cross.</i>
	My life is hid with Christ on high	Christ: God's chosen one, Jesus On high: in heaven <i>You can't see it now, but Jesus my representative is in heaven, and I have a place with him there forever.</i>
	With Christ my Savior and my God!	