

WELCOME

Prayer of Gratitude

Heavenly Father, our day-to-day routines can be filled with busyness. So much so that we sometimes forget to stop to thank you for all that is good in our lives. Our blessings are many and our hearts are filled with gratefulness for the gift of living, for the ability to love and be loved, for the opportunity to see the everyday wonders of creation. We want to thank you, for those things in our lives that are less than we would hope them to be. Sometimes life is very hard, and it's a struggle to keep our heads above water. Things that seem challenging, unfair, or difficult often hurts. When our hearts feel stretched and empty, still we will rejoice that You are as near to us as our next breath and that in the midst of turbulence, we are growing and learning. In the silence of our souls, we thank you most of all for Your unconditional love. **AMEN**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty and merciful God, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. O Lord, have mercy upon us. Spare those who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent, according to your promises declared to the world in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O merciful God, for his sake, that we may live a holy, just, and humble life for the glory of your holy name. **Amen.**

READING

Today's reading cites two priests mentioned in the Old Testament—Melchizedek (Genesis 14:17-20) and Aaron (Exodus 28 and 29). God made Jesus the High Priest who “became the source of eternal salvation for all those who obey him” (5:9). Believers are encouraged to approach God's throne of grace and mercy with confidence.

HEBREWS 4:14—5:10 14Let us, then, hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we have a great High Priest who has gone into the very presence of God—Jesus, the Son of God. 15Our High Priest is not one who cannot feel sympathy for our weaknesses. On the contrary, we have a High Priest who was tempted in every way that we are, but did not sin. 16Let us have confidence, then, and approach God's throne, where there is grace. There we will receive mercy and find grace to help us just when we need it.

1Every high priest is chosen from his fellow-men and appointed to serve God on their behalf, to offer sacrifices and offerings for sins. 2Since he himself is weak in many ways, he is able to be gentle with those who are ignorant and make mistakes. 3 And because he is himself weak, he must offer sacrifices not only for the sins of the people but also for his own sins. 4 No one chooses for himself the honor of being a high priest. It is only by God's call that a man is made a high priest—just as Aaron was.

5 In the same way, Christ did not take upon himself the honor of being a high priest. Instead, God said to him,

“You are my Son;

today I have become your Father.”

6 He also said in another place,

“You will be a priest forever,

in the priestly order of Melchizedek.”

7 In his life on earth Jesus made his prayers and requests with loud cries and tears to God, who could save him from death. Because he was humble and devoted, God heard him. 8But even though he was God's Son, he learned through his sufferings to be obedient. 9When he was made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all those who obey him, 10and God declared him to be high priest, in the priestly order of Melchizedek.

REFLECT

What does this verse teach you about Jesus? Where in your life do you encounter temptation? What does knowing that Jesus can empathize with your experience mean to you?

PRAY

Lord Jesus, you are our great High Priest. In the face of temptation, you have taught us to remain faithful to your Word. Strengthen us against the temptations in our lives so that we may live as your true disciples. **AMEN**

PRAYER FOR LEADERS

All authority is Yours, but You have given authority to leaders to protect and guide us. Today, we ask that You would give all our leaders wisdom, discernment, strength, and resolve. Keep them healthy, safe, and rested so that they can continue to guide us through this troubling time.

Give our government leaders wisdom about what needs to be done to stop the virus and stabilize our economy.

Give our spiritual leaders Your discernment on how to meet people's needs as they continue to glorify Your name and encourage the Church.

Give our medical leaders insight into how to stop the virus. Strengthen their resolve and honor their hard work in creating a treatment for COVID-19.

Give our civic leaders inspiration, courage, joy, and strength to meet the needs of their communities.

And help us, as leaders in our communities, to display courage, hope, generosity, and kindness. Would the way we honor others inspire those around us. In Jesus' Name, **AMEN.**

PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH

Lord, You have told us in Your written Word that You hear our prayers. We are crying out to You, we are humbling ourselves before You and seeking Your face. We come together as the Church to seek You. Thank You for hearing us. Thank you for Your forgiveness and healing. God, help Your Church to walk in a manner worthy of the calling You have given us. Help us in all our interactions with one another to have humble and gentle hearts. Grant us patience for one another, bearing with one another in love. Grant the Body of Christ unity. May we walk humbly with You, God, **AMEN.**

LIVE CHAT PRAYER REQUESTS

SONG OF PRAYER - Make Us Instruments

GO IN PEACE LOVING GOD AND LOVING OTHERS