

Sunday, October 17, 2021 – Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading: Isaiah 53:4-12

In Acts 8: 26ff., the Ethiopian eunuch asked Philip who the prophet was talking about – himself or someone else. Acts 8: 35 says that Philip, "starting with this scripture . . . proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus."

5 - He was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.

6 - All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way,
and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

1 Peter 2: 24-25 - By his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

7 - He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

Matthew 27: 14 – Jesus gave Pilate no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

9 - They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich.

John 19: 38 - Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus.

11-12 - The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. He bore the sin of many and made intercession for the transgressors.

2 Corinthians 5: 21 – For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Psalm: Psalm 91:9-16

9-10 - Because you have made the LORD your refuge, and the Most High your habitation,
no evil will befall you, nor shall affliction come near your dwelling.

11-12 - For God will give the angels charge over you, to guard you in all your ways.
Upon their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.

Matthew 4: 5-6 (also Luke 4:9-11) – Then the devil placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written.

14-16 - I will deliver those who cling to me; I will uphold them, because they know my name.
They will call me, and I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue
and honor them. With long life will I satisfy them and show them my salvation.

When have you experienced God's delivering you, upholding you, answering you, being with you in trouble, rescuing you, honoring you, satisfying you, and showing you His salvation?

Second Reading: Hebrews 5:1-10

Jesus is superior to the Old Testament priests, who first had to offer sacrifices for their own sin. And they had to offer sacrifices over and over again. Their work was never done. Jesus is sinless, so He did not have to offer a sacrifice first for His own sin. His sacrifice was not an animal, but Himself. And His sacrifice was offered once for all time.

1-2 - Every high priest is able to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is subject to weakness.

Hebrews 4: 15-16 – We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. We have a high priest who can sympathize with our weaknesses. But we need a high priest who can do more than sympathize with our weaknesses.

3 – (The Old Testament high priest) must offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people.

The original readers of Hebrews must have been very familiar with the Old Testament. Note the quotation of Psalm 2: 7 in verse 5 and Psalm 110: 7 in verse 6. Genesis 14: 17-20 – After Abram defeated a coalition of kings, King Melchizedek of Salem, priest of God Most High, brought out bread and wine and blessed Abram. And Abram gave him one tenth of everything.

5-6 - Christ was appointed by the one who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you." As he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek."

9-10 – (Jesus) became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Gospel: Mark 10:35-45

How do you respond – how do you feel – when someone asks, "Will you do me a favor?" In Matthew 20: 28 it is the mother of James and John (sister of Mary?) who came to Jesus with her sons, and kneeling before him, asked a favor of him.

35-37 - James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And he said to them, "What is it you want me to do for you?" And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory."

It has been only one chapter – in Mark 9: 34 – since the disciples had been caught red-handed, arguing about which one of them is the greatest. Once again, Jesus does not blast them but makes it into a teaching moment and gives Himself as the example.

41-45 - When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, "You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."