
22 Thursday

THURSDAY, 2nd Week of Ordinary Time
St Vincent

Hebrews 7: 25 – 8: 6
Ps 39: 7 – 10, 17
Mark 3: 7 - 12

We're listening these days to readings from the Letter to the Hebrews, one of the most important books of the New Testament. It's about the priesthood of Christ, about Christian life and worship. But because it's addressed to Jewish Christians, there's a lot in it about the Old Testament priesthood and worship, and comparisons between the old and the new which maybe we find either not very interesting or not very helpful for meditation and prayer today. Yet, Christ's priestly ministry, of perfect worship of the Divine Majesty, in the true sanctuary of the Lord, and as the mediator of God's new covenant is central to our faith and worship. We should, perhaps, reflect more on what that ministry means. What exactly is Christ's priesthood, and the priesthood of those ordained to 'priestly ministry' in the church? When we speak of the priesthood of all the faithful, what are we really talking about? 'Ministry' and 'worship' are words we use a lot these days, sometimes quite loosely, and sometimes quite divorced from 'priesthood'. Indeed, for some people the idea of priesthood seems irrelevant or out of date. But here's Jesus Christ being proclaimed as our High Priest for ever, who offered Himself for us once and for all, and is mediator and minister of the Sanctuary. Isn't this an invitation to a deeper understanding of Jesus as our High Priest, and to reflection on that priesthood of His that we all share? Reflecting on His ministry, let us pray today for all who minister in the service of God's people, not least those ordained to share His priestly ministry on behalf of all of us.

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