

LENT 5  
PASSION SUNDAY

THE COLLECT

WE beseech thee, Almighty God, mercifully to look upon thy people; that by thy great goodness they may be governed and preserved evermore, both in body and soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.




1. How do we beseech God to look upon His people?  
A. M . (Psalm 119:77)
2. By what do we pray to be governed and preserved evermore?  
A. By God's great \_\_\_\_\_ . (Psalm 52:1)
3. In what do we pray to be governed evermore?  
A. Both in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ . (I Thessalonians 5:23)
4. Through whom are we preserved in body and soul?  
A. Through \_\_\_\_\_ our Lord. (I Cor. 15:57)

INTRODUCTION: Read Hebrews 4:14-5:11

First half of Lent we think most about our *sins*; second half of Lent we think most about our *Saviour*. Last week we thought of something Christ gives us from God—the Bread of Life. Next week we shall think of something Christ gave for us to God—Himself, a Sacrifice. Now today we are to think about **Christ our High Priest**, and a priest is one who does just these two things—one who gives something to us from God; one who gives something to God for us.

Look at the first verse of the Epistle reading from above. What is Christ called? A High Priest. And the Epistle to the Hebrews is almost all about this subject, Christ as a High Priest. Let us read the passage and learn some of its lessons.

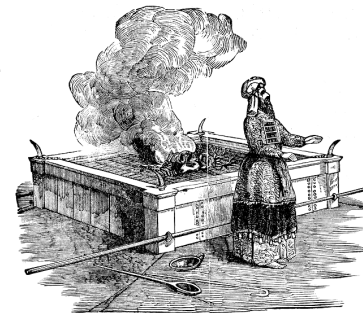
I. THE HIGH PRIEST ACTS AS A MEDIATOR.

1. We all need to speak to God, that is, have union with Him. There was a time when this union existed; when God talked to man and man to God. When was this? In the  Garden of Eden before sin came.

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1. **But after the sin**, when God came to talk to His children, what happened? They hid away, just as naughty children hid when father comes home.
2. **They want someone to speak to their father for them.** It must be one who loves them, and one whom the father loves. Who is that? Mother. Yes, and we too need someone appointed to bring us and God together again. Someone who loves us, and whom God loves, who has power with God, and Who is that? Jesus Christ. This is just the work of a priest, and God wanted this done, so He made His Son the Priest, to bear His message and blessing to us, and to bring us back to God.

## II. THE HIGH PRIEST IS FITTED FOR HIS WORK

1. **If He is to represent God to Man**— He must have *authority*, just as ambassadors are sent to represent our King at foreign courts, and they have authority to speak in his name. He must have His Father's *love* and *confidence*. He must have love for His father. He must have *likeness* to His Father; and all this Christ has (St. Matt. 17:5, Heb 1:3, St. John 5:20, 27).
2. **If He is to represent Man to God**— He must have *likeness* with men (Phil 2:7), He must have *sympathy* with men to know what they feel and what they need (Heb. 4:15-16), and He must have *love* for men (St. John 8:1); and all this Christ has.

## III. EXAMPLES OF HIGH PRIEST ON EARTH (Types of Christ)

1. **Aaron, the Jewish High Priest.** Appointed because the people felt the need of someone to mediate between them and God (Ex. 28:1), he was anointed (Ex. 29:7, Acts 10:38), offered sacrifices, went into God's presence with the blood of the sacrifice to make intercession (Heb. 9:7), and blessed the people (Num. 6:23). In these ways Aaron, a high priest of old, was a type of Christ. The high priest of old offered animals, but such sacrifices could not take away sin. They were only pictures of the great sacrifice, Christ himself (Heb 10:1-11). The high priest made intercession, *i.e.* he went into God's presence with the blood of the sacrifice and there prayed for the people's forgiveness. Christ has gone into heaven, where He is ever pleading for us, and pleading the sacrifice He offered for us (Heb 7:25. 9:12, Rom 8:34).
2. **Melchisedec, whose name meant King of Righteousness**, and Christ is the Lord our Righteousness. He was King of Salem, and Salem means peace, so Christ is Prince of Peace. He received tithes of Abraham and gave blessing and refreshment to Abraham. He brought forth bread and wine—just what Christ appointed in Holy Communion.

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