

January 18 Wednesday

Reading 1 HEB 7:1-3, 15-17

Melchizedek, king of Salem and priest of God Most High, met Abraham as he returned from his defeat of the kings and blessed him. And Abraham apportioned to him a tenth of everything. His name first means righteous king, and he was also "king of Salem," that is, king of peace. Without father, mother, or ancestry, without beginning of days or end of life, thus made to resemble the Son of God, he remains a priest forever. It is even more obvious if another priest is raised up after the likeness of Melchizedek, who has become so, not by a law expressed in a commandment concerning physical descent but by the power of a life that cannot be destroyed.

For it is testified: *You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.*

Responsorial Psalm PS 110:1, 2, 3, 4

R. (4b) **You are a priest for ever, in the line of Melchizedek.**

The LORD said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand
till I make your enemies your footstool."

R. **You are a priest for ever, in the line of Melchizedek.**

The scepter of your power the LORD will stretch forth from Zion:
"Rule in the midst of your enemies."

R. **You are a priest for ever, in the line of Melchizedek.**

"Yours is princely power in the day of your birth, in holy splendor;
before the daystar, like the dew, I have begotten you."

R. **You are a priest for ever, in the line of Melchizedek.**

The LORD has sworn, and he will not repent:

"You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek."

R. **You are a priest for ever, in the line of Melchizedek.**

Alleluia MT 4:23

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

Jesus preached the Gospel of the Kingdom
and cured every disease among the people.

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

Gospel MK 3:1-6

Jesus entered the synagogue. There was a man there who had a withered hand. They watched Jesus closely to see if he would cure him on the Sabbath so that they might accuse him. He said to the man with the withered hand, "Come up here before us." Then he said to the Pharisees, "Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath rather than to do evil, to save life rather than to destroy it?" But they remained silent. Looking around at them with anger and grieved at their hardness of heart, Jesus said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out and his hand was restored. The Pharisees went out and immediately took counsel with the Herodians against him to put him to death.

Reflection:

Refusal to be converted is a refusal to receive the gracious love of God. The blood of the martyr has infused new blood in the veins to do well and to save life rather than destroy it. This is the lifelong faithfulness modeled after Jesus. The Pharisees looked to kill Jesus for restoring the health of a withered handed man on a sabbath day. Christians are called to serve until death. No one can avoid pain, suffering and suffering and even death. This is the common lot of all people. When these tortures come as a result on the side of the sick, invalid and poor, it adds merit to our lives following our master, we shall love others until death.