

January 19 Thursday

Reading 1HEB 7:25—8:6

Jesus is always able to save those who approach God through him, since he lives forever to make intercession for them. It was fitting that we should have such a high priest: holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners, higher than the heavens. He has no need, as did the high priests, to offer sacrifice day after day, first for his own sins and then for those of the people; he did that once for all when he offered himself. For the law appoints men subject to weakness to be high priests, but the word of the oath, which was taken after the law, appoints a son, who has been made perfect forever. The main point of what has been said is this: we have such a high priest, who has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, a minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle that the Lord, not man, set up. Now every high priest is appointed to offer gifts and sacrifices; thus the necessity for this one also to have something to offer. If then he were on earth, he would not be a priest, since there are those who offer gifts according to the law. They worship in a copy and shadow of the heavenly sanctuary, as Moses was warned when he was about to erect the tabernacle. For God says, "See that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain." Now he has obtained so much more excellent a ministry as he is mediator of a better covenant, enacted on better promises.

Responsorial Psalm PS 40:7-8A, 8B-9, 10, 17

R. (8a and 9a) **Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.**

Sacrifice or oblation you wished not,
but ears open to obedience you gave me.
Burnt offerings or sin-offerings you sought not;
then said I, "Behold I come."

R. **Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.**

"In the written scroll it is prescribed for me,
To do your will, O my God, is my delight,
and your law is within my heart!"

R. **Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.**

I announced your justice in the vast assembly;
I did not restrain my lips, as you, O LORD, know.

R. **Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.**

May all who seek you
exult and be glad in you,

And may those who love your salvation
say ever, "The LORD be glorified."

R. **Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.**

Alleluia 2TM 1:10

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

Our Savior Jesus Christ has destroyed death
and brought life to light through the Gospel.

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

Gospel MK 3:7-12

Jesus withdrew toward the sea with his disciples. A large number of people followed from Galilee and from Judea. Hearing what he was doing, a large number of people came to him also from Jerusalem, from Idumea, from beyond the Jordan, and from the neighborhood of Tyre and Sidon. He told his disciples to have a boat ready for him because of the crowd, so that they would not crush him. He had cured many and, as a result, those who had diseases were pressing upon him to touch him. And whenever unclean spirits saw him they would fall down before him and shout, "You are the Son of God." He warned them sternly not to make him known.

Reflection:

The crowd which gathered around Jesus is a symbol of the University of the Church which has Christ as its center. Those who came around Jesus with their difficulties and illnesses were mainly the excluded and the marginalized in the society. Jesus' reputation as a preacher and healer attracts many to Him. Therefore he is a perfect giver who genuinely exemplifies the model of a perfect giver. Each one of us is given a particular and unique task to partake in the ongoing saving mission of God. The vocation of a human being is to emerge from the attitude of narcissistic possession and grew into an altruistic giving in our day today life. Let us ask our lord to develop a sense of deep love for our daily works and fulfil them with happiness.