

Reading for Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Eternal High Priest

May 28th 2026

First reading

Genesis 22:9-18

The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith.

In those days: When Abraham and Isaac came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, 'Abraham, Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.' He said, 'Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.' And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called the name of that place, 'The Lord will provide'; as it is said to this day, 'On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.'

And the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said, 'By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 40(39):7-8a. 8b-9. 10. 17. R8a, 9a

Behold, I have come, Lord, to do your will.

You delight not in sacrifice and offering, but in an open ear.

You do not ask for holocaust and sin offering.

Then I said, 'Behold, I have come.'

In the scroll of the book it stands written of me:

'I delight to do your will, O my God;

your instruction lies deep within me.'

Your uprightness I have proclaimed in the great assembly.

My lips I have not sealed;

you know it, O Lord.

O let there be rejoicing and gladness for all who seek you.

Let them ever say, 'The Lord is great,' who long for your salvation.

When a Feast of the Lord falls on a weekday, there is no reading after the Psalm and before the Gospel.

Gospel Acclamation

Philippians 2:8-9

Alleluia, alleluia.

Christ became for us obedient to the point of death,
even death on a cross.

Therefore God has highly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name that is above every name.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 26:36-42

‘My soul is very sorrowful, even to death.’

Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, ‘Sit here, while I go over there and pray.’ And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, ‘My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.’

And going a little further he fell on his face and prayed, saying, ‘My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.’ And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, ‘So, could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.’ Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, ‘My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.’

Short reflection on the reading for today

Today we celebrate the Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Eternal High Priest. There may be over 400,000 ordained priests in the worldwide Catholic Church and, of course, all of us by our Baptism are made priests. But really there is only one priest, our great High Priest, Jesus Christ Himself. He is the mediator between God and humanity. It is in His priesthood that we all share in our various ways. Jesus is also the Victim that is offered, for on Calvary the offering He made was of Himself for the salvation of the world. That Victimhood we too share by offering up ourselves and all that goes into our daily life.

In the Letter to the Hebrews it says: “Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (Heb 4: 14-16).