Morning Prayer for CBI – March 1, 2014



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Collect Prayer

O God, for your glory and for the salvation of the human race, you willed to establish Christ as the eternal High Priest. Grant that the people he has gained for you by his Blood may experience the power of his Cross and Resurrection. We make this prayer in his name, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading (Hebrews 7:11-28)

"Now if perfection had been attainable through the levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law) what further need would there have been for another priest to arise according to the order of Melchizedek, rather than one named according to the order of Aaron? For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well. For the one of whom these things are spoken belonged to another tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests.

This becomes more evident when another priest arises in the likeness of Melchizedek who has become a priest, Not according to a legal requirement concerning bodily descent but by the power of an indestructible life for it is witnessed of him, "you are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek. On the one hand a former commandment is set aside because of its weakness and uselessness (for the law made nothing perfect) On the other hand a better hope is introduced, through which we draw near to God. And it was not without an oath. Those who formerly became priests took their office without an oath, but this one was addressed with an oath, "The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind you are a priest forever". This makes Jesus the surety of a better covenant. The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office. But he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. Consequently he is able for all time to save those who draw near to God through Him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, sustained, separated from sinners, exalted above the heavens. He has no need like those high priest, to offer sacrifices daily for his own sins and then for those of the people, he did this once for all when he offered up himself Indeed, the law appoints men in their weakness as high priest, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a son who has been made perfect forever.

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 110:1-4)

Ref.: You are a priest forever, in the line of Melchizedek. R. All

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

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

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

The LORD has sworn, and he will not repent:

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

Intercessions

R. Lord hear our prayer.

- We pray for an increase in religious vocations, that more men and women may answer God's call to the priesthood, diaconate, consecrated life as brothers and sisters, and lay ministry. **R. All**
- We pray for discernment for all of us, as we try to respond faithfully to God's call to a life of service in a religious community or in lay ministry. **R. All**
- We pray for God's grace and blessing upon us as participants of the Catholic Bible Institute, that we will learn the scriptures, come to know Jesus better, and persevere to finish this course. **R. All**
- We pray for all missionaries who have left their homes to proclaim the gospel throughout the world, that God will always be with them to guide, protect, and direct them in the paths they take. **R. All**
- We pray for the leaders of all nations, that they will realize that greatness means service to the people with care and humility before the Lord. **R. All**
- We pray for all here present and the intentions that are kept in the silence of our hearts. **R. All**

Closing Prayer

Merciful God, you are awesome in your power and strength; look kindly upon us your children as we glorify you and proclaim that you are our father, provider, benefactor, and protector, and that you are with us always through Christ Jesus, our Lord. **Amen.**

CBI – March 1, 2014 – Closing Prayer

Song: "They'll Know We Are Christians" (vv. 1-2; see other side)

Reading: 1 John 4:7-11 (God's Love and Christian Life)

"Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God;

everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.

Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love.

In this way the love of God was revealed to us;

God sent His only Son into the world so that we might have life through Him.

In this love: not that we have loved God,

but that He loved us and sent His Son as expiation for our sins.

Beloved, if God so loved us, we also must love one another.

No one has ever seen God. Yet, if we love one another,

God remains in us, and His love is brought to perfection in us.

Reflection: (All pause and reflect on the reading in silence.)

Psalm Response: Psalm 150

All: Let everything that has breath give praise to the Lord!

<u>Reader</u>: Hallelujah! Praise God in His holy sanctuary; give praise in the mighty dome of heaven. Give praise for His mighty deeds, praise Him for His great majesty.

<u>All</u>: Let everything that has breath give praise to the Lord!

Reader: Give praise with blasts upon the horn, praise Him with harp and lyre. Give praise with tambourines and dance, praise Him with flutes and strings.

<u>All</u>: Let everything that has breath give praise to the Lord!

<u>Reader</u>: Give praise with crashing cymbals, praise Him with sounding cymbals. Let everything that has breath give praise to the Lord! Hallelujah!

All: Let everything that has breath give praise to the Lord!

Closing Prayer:

All: Loving God, we put our gifts at the "service of one another, each in the measure we have received." Help us to be grateful for your abundant gifts and to share our talents in building up the Body of Christ. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and our Lord. Amen.

Closing Song: "They'll Know We Are Christians" (vv. 3-4; see other side)

THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS

Peter Scholtes



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