



4/5 May 2019
Vol. 41, No. 18

The Priesthood of the Lord

Exodus 28:1-43

English Services
(8 & 10:30 a.m., & 5:30 p.m.)

Prelude
Call to Worship
Worship through Praise
Worship through Fellowship
Pastoral Prayer
Anthem
Scripture Reading
Worship in the Word
Pastor Larry Pabiona
The Lord's Supper
Worship through Giving
Response Song
Benediction

Filipino Service
(3 n.h.)

Paghahanda
Tawag sa Pagsamba
Pagsamba sa Pag-aawitan
Pagkilala sa mga Bisita
Panalanging Pastoral
Pagbasa ng Salita ng Diyos
Pakikinig sa Salita ng Diyos
Pastor Sam Rendal
Banal na Hapunan
Pagsamba sa Pagbibigay
Tugon na Awit
Bendisyon

*See inset inside for the **Traditional Service (Sat., 6 p.m.)** program.*



The Priesthood of the Lord

Today's Message (4/5 May 2019) /
Exodus 28:1-43

WE KNOW
GOD, BUT
MORE
IMPORTANTLY,
WE ARE
KNOWN BY
GOD. HOW?
THROUGH
JESUS CHRIST.

This passage is not about fashion for priests. It teaches us significant insights about the priesthood of Jesus Himself. His priesthood was unique because He became like us, yet was also not like us.

The Lord told Moses to “make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty” (*Exodus 28:2*). These were holy garments, in order to show the glory and beauty of the Lord and to teach the Israelites reverence in worship. Despite their similarity to fellow Israelites, priests were set-apart men whose garments teach us about how God regards us:

1. A P_____ LIKE US, YET UNLIKE US
(vv. 1-4, 43).

- The High Priest was set apart to “serve” the Lord (v. 1) and to “minister in the Holy Place” (v. 43) on behalf of and for the sake of the people.

Similarly, we need a priest who is just like us. Jesus Christ had to be human like us in every way in order to be a merciful and faithful High Priest (*Hebrews 2:14–18*). He has been tempted like us in every way, yet without sinning (*Hebrews 4:15*).

But the text also reveals we need a priest totally distinct from us. The special garments were God's indication that the Mediator would be far higher than man could produce. Jesus is “holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens” (*Hebrews 7:26*). No human being has met or will ever meet those criteria! We need a priest who is fully God that He might save us from our sins and the results of our sins.

- Jesus speaks to sinners and invites them to come to Him in their weakness and sin. He invites you who are struggling with your faith. He invites you who cannot break the power of certain sins. He invites you who are strong in faith to constantly cling to Him and to be used by Him to serve the weaker.

2. A P_____ REMEMBERED, REDEEMED,
AND RECONCILED (vv. 5-43).

By treating the garments the priests were required to wear as object lessons, we see how the Israelites received the

Traditional Service

(May 4, Saturday, 6 p.m.)

Prelude

Call to Worship

Worship through Praise

Worship through Fellowship

Worship through Giving

Pastoral Prayer

Scripture Reading

Preparatory Hymn

Worship in the Word

Pastor Larry Pabiona

The Lord's Supper

Benediction



The Priesthood of the Lord

Today's Message (4/5 May 2019) /
Exodus 28:1-43

blessings of the priesthood. These benefits flow to New Testament believers today through our Great High Priest, the Lord Jesus Christ.

- a. They were remembered.** Through the jewels in the ephod and breast piece, the High Priest would bring the Israelites' names "before the Lord for remembrance" (*v. 12*).
- This shows *intimate knowledge*. The same God who gives millions of stars their names (*Psalms 147:4*), is a personal God who knows you by name (*John 10:27*).
 - This shows *eternal knowledge*. Exodus 28:29 says, "Aaron shall bear the names of the sons of Israel in the breastpiece of judgment on his heart, when he goes into the Holy Place, to bring them to regular remembrance before the Lord." The word "regular" is a way of saying "constantly."

This beautifully pictures what Jesus does for us in heaven (*Hebrews 7:25*). Why do we believe in perseverance of the saints, that true Christians can be sure they'll be ultimately saved? We persevere because He preserves (*Romans 8:34*).

b. They were redeemed (their sins removed).

- Israelites came to the Tabernacle every day with sacrifices for sins. These taught the Israelites they had a serious problem—sin. We can't understand grace until we understand guilt. When we realize how evil our hearts are, we begin to understand how loving the heart of God is (*Romans 7:24, 25*).
- The Israelites' sins were symbolically removed from them and borne by the High Priest. With the Urim and Thummim in the breastpiece, the high priest was to "bear the judgment of the people of Israel on his heart before the Lord regularly" (*Exodus 28:30*). With the golden plate on his forehead, he was to "bear any guilt from the holy things that the people consecrate" (*28:38*). This is another foreshadowing of Jesus who took on Himself our judgment and guilt (*2 Corinthians 5:21*).

- c. They were reconciled.** What did bearing the names of the Israelites and their guilt really bring about? Acceptance with God. We see this in the plate of pure gold to symbolically bear the people's guilt: "It shall regularly be on his forehead, that they may be accepted before the Lord" (*Exodus 28:36–38*). But can sinners be accepted and forgiven by a holy God? Paul taught so (*Romans 5:6–11*).

Many of us remember what that initial acceptance by God felt like. Never forget it. It should kindle a passion in us for others who are still without Christ to know that acceptance.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Paul said in Galatians 4:8–9: "Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods. But now...you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God." We know God, but more importantly, we are known by God. How? Through Jesus Christ. What a High Priest we have received and appropriated in Jesus! ■

WHAT WILL BE OUR NEXT SERMON SERIES?

Having finished Genesis, we'll start a new series about the most popular Psalms of the Bible called *The Psalms: Songs That Keep Your Life In Tune*. It will feature the 40 most beloved Psalms throughout history, which also happen to be a good representation of the different kinds of Psalms. The series starts May 19, and will be interrupted every first Sunday (like today) for our communion series *Portraits of Christ in the Tabernacle*. May 12 will be a special Sunday, being Mother's Day—please don't miss it!

We pray that not only will this new series make you fall in love with the Psalms (and the God of the Psalms) but that it also instructs you in the right way to study it personally and understand it for life application.

"PASTOR, WHO ARE YOU VOTING FOR THIS MAY 13?"

I keep getting asked, but we keep the church apolitical, so I will not say anything here about any specific candidate. Here are helpful excerpts from a letter of Dr. Melba Maggay of ISACC, one of GCF's supported ministries, regarding this issue:

"The visible church—the people of God scattered about in the world—are meant to be salt and light, an army under orders to storm the gates of hell—especially in the dark world of politics—so that the will and purpose of God for human society is done on earth as it is in heaven.

"It is unfortunate that the surveys, as used in this country, have ceased to be merely descriptive of trends but have become unduly predictive, a tool for swaying the collective bent of the culture towards results desired by those who pay for them.

"But the despair is premature. If we all gather our hands and feet together, we may yet turn the tide by the simple exercise of the one right we still have: our vote."

In Philippine history (for reasons too many to mention here) there has never been a more crucial time for choosing the right senators than May 13, 2019. Here are my *personal* guidelines for choosing senatorial candidates:

1. Candidates who honor God and who are aligned with those who honor God (*Psalms* 2).
2. Candidates who believe in and respect the right to life, and who are aligned with those who respect the right to life (*Genesis* 9:5–6).
3. Candidates who believe in and will fight for the independence of the legislative (the Senate and the House of Representatives) and judicial (the courts) branches of government from the executive branch (the presidency and the departments). This is a crucial feature of genuine democracy.

Feel free to choose all, some, or none of these guidelines but above all, do pray for your vote. It really matters.

PS: I share my actual choices only to those who ask for it, and who promise not to interpret that as campaigning ■

Ministry Opportunities + Announcements



PASSING THE BATON OF FAITH

Parenting Series organized by Couples' Ministry
 Wednesdays of May (8, 15, 22 and 29)
 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Chapel
 Check standees at the lobby for topic selection.



PERSONALITY AND OUR JOURNEY TO CHRISTLIKENESS

YA Talk 6 with Doc Yoyit Roldan & Majar Sabio
 May 18 (Sat), 2-5 p.m. at the Youth Center
 Free personality self-typing before event starts.
Everyone is invited; registration is free.
 To register, please contact 0917 625 0244.



2019 YOUTH LIVE CAMPS

ROOTED: HIGH SCHOOL CAMP
 Venue: Batangas Country Club, May 30-June 2
 (Thu-Sun) | Early bird fee PhP 2,000 'til May 5
BEYOND: COLLEGE CAMP
 Venue: Rizal Recreation Center, June 5-8
 (Wed-Sat) | Early bird fee PhP 2,000 'til May 5
 For more information, please visit their booth.



BASKETBALL CLINIC

with Coach Norman Black
 May 11, 16, 18, 23 & 25 (Thurs. and Sats.)
 Strictly for 7-15 year-olds only | Fee: P2,500
 Only 50 will be accommodated. Registration
 starts April 28 and until slots are filled.



ROAR! LIFE IS WILD, GOD IS GOOD

Daily Vacation Bible School 2019
 Children's Ministry invites kids and parents of
 kids aged 2-12 to "Roar!" this May 27-June 1
 (Mon. to Sat.), 8 a.m.-12 nn. | Fee: P600.00
 To register, please visit [https://vbspro.events/p/
 events/dvbs-roar-2019-update](https://vbspro.events/p/events/dvbs-roar-2019-update). For more details,
 please text 0917 532 7663 or 0917 532 7768.

The flowers this week are given with praise and thanksgiving to God for His mercy and grace by the Valera family and the Messiah College. Please call 632 1354 to 56 for inquiries on how to participate in this ministry.

Join a DISCIPLE-MAKING GROUP

Growth Group Express
Mixed group led by Ptr. Emer Manaloto
 Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.
 Rm. B124

God's Grace GG (G4)
Group for couples
 Fridays, 7:30-10:00 p.m.
 Rm. B124

Best Together in Christ
Group for couples
 Sundays, 9:30-11:00 a.m.
 Rm. B508

If you are interested in joining any of the small groups above, fill out the tear-off form of this bulletin, drop it in the offering bag, or submit it at the Growth Group booth at the lobby. For more information, you can text or call us at 0917 532 1921.

Growth Group Leaders' Training 1
 May 5, 12, 19, 26 (Sundays), 12:00-3:00 p.m., Rm. A303

GG Leaders' Orientation on the Study Guide on Psalms
 May 12 (Sun), 9:30-10:30 a.m. and 4:30-5:30 p.m. (B302-303)

STEWARDSHIP REPORT / April 2019

APRIL	Projected	Rcvd., Apr. 1-30	YEAR-TO-DATE	Projected	Rcvd., as of April 30
General Funds	8,614,850	6,903,094	General Funds	33,608,121	33,231,945
Mission Support Fund	1,317,698	1,141,498	Mission Support Fund	5,270,790	4,659,960
Others (Designated, etc.)	2,589,276	1,921,684	Others (Designated, etc.)	5,102,584	4,659,010
TOTAL	12,521,823	9,966,275	TOTAL	43,981,496	42,550,916

And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

—Luke 23:43 (ESV)

Two thieves hung crucified to Jesus’ left and right. They were the ones with whom Jesus spent his final hours. Both saw how things unfolded for him, but only one responded in hope. The crowds gathered and pushed against each other, just to get a view of the man about to be executed for treason.

What sets the gospel of Luke apart from the other gospel accounts was its focus on how Jesus generously related with the weak, the outcast, and even those who stood hostile against him and his people. He lived and taught the ways of compassion and justice, announcing a kingdom that brings about the great reversal—the proud are brought low, the humble exalted. That is what brought Jesus to the cross.

Death by crucifixion was the most excruciating and humiliating way to punish criminals during those times. So a “king” on a cross is not a triumphant king, because a king cannot rule if he is powerless, and he will be unable to save if he cannot save himself. The mockery of the crowds and that one criminal beside

Jesus seemed logical—the kingdom he proclaimed was looking like a failure.

But the other thief saw differently. While his disciples fled for their lives, Jesus remained and gave his. While the crowds kept throwing insults, Jesus never stopped forgiving. Just as Jesus generously opened his hands to the outcasts, he was doing the same for the people murdering him. The guilty thief saw this and defended Jesus’ innocence. Then he asked, “Remember me when you come into your kingdom.” Jesus, generously giving until the end, promised more than remembrance. The penitent bargained for future acknowledgment, but the Savior King promised immediate and eternal fellowship: “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

To receive and be received in the Presence of God, that is what Paradise looks like.

As we remember Christ today in communion, let us consider these: To receive and be received in the Presence of God, this is what Paradise looks like. To live with a passion for justice, mercy, and love, this is what the kingdom of God looks like. Let us remember that even in the extreme capacity of man for evil and injustice, it did not stop God, in Jesus, to reveal the extent of his goodness, the extent of his love ■

PRAYER
at the Chapel

The GCF Hour of Prayer
Tuesdays, 6-7 a.m.

Midweek Prayer Service
Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m.

Weeknight Prayer Gatherings
Except Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m.

ON THE COVER: Depiction of Eli the High Priest and Samuel (1780) by John Singleton Copley (Wikimedia, public domain). In this painting, Eli, whom the Lord disdained because he let his sons continue in their wicked ways, is wearing high-priestly garments (but without the headdress) while interacting with young Samuel. The breastplate with the stones representing the 12 tribes is prominent.



Greenhills Christian Fellowship
Know Christ and Make Him Known

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Tel. Nos. 632 1354 to 56, 635 0078 to 80, 635 0082 to 83 | Fax No. 632 1357
Mobile No. 0920 961 2964, Mon.-Fri., 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
E-mail: email@gcf.org.ph • Website: www.gcf.org.ph

How may we SERVE YOU BETTER?

Fill-out this tear off form and drop it in an offering bag/box or at the Ministry Information Booth. Please check all that is applicable:

- I am a first-time guest.
- I prayed to receive Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord for the first time today.
- I would like to know how to become a Christian.
- I am interested in becoming a member of this church.
- I want to join a Growth Group.**
(Specify age group: _____)
(Specify group composition: _____)
- I want to start a Growth Group.
- I want to host a Growth Group.

Please share with us some information about yourself:

Name: _____

Age: ____ Landline no.: _____

Mobile no.: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Year of membership: _____

Name of Growth Group (if you already have one): _____

Today is 4/5 May 2019, and I attended the 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 3:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. (Sat) (encircle the time).

Write below *any* inquiry or prayer item that you want to ask or share.

God's Way to Heaven

THE GOSPEL

"Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures."
(1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD

God is holy and righteous: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty, the whole earth is full of his glory" (Isaiah 6:3). **He requires holiness of us as well:** "Be holy, for I am holy" (1 Peter 1:16).

THE TRUTH ABOUT MAN

Man is sinful: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).
Sin demands a penalty: "For the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23).

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRIST

Christ is the expression of God's love for us: "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). **Christ paid the penalty of our sins and died for sinners:** "For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God" (1 Peter 3:18). **Through Christ, God offers man reconciliation:** "God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them" (2 Corinthians 5:18).

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

Believe and receive Jesus as Lord and Savior: "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9).

PRAYER: *Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner. I believe that you died on the cross in my place, to save me from my sins, and I accept you as my Savior, and the Master of my life forever. Amen.*

Need someone to talk to?

Visit the Emmaus Road Counseling Center at the GCF Mezzanine floor or contact 632 1354 to 56, 635 0078 to 80 or 0917 532 7794 for inquiries.

For hospital or house visitation, dedication service, or funeral service requests, please call or text 0917 532 7794.