



THE PERSON OF CHRIST

WORKSHEET - EPISODE 6

Priest: Jesus Christ, Clergy, Every Believer

“We have a Great High Priest”

1. Jesus is described as our Priest throughout the Epistle to the Hebrews. His priesthood is compared and contrasted with the Old Testament priesthood.
 - The Old Testament priest was a minister of the temple who mediated and offered sacrifice for the people of Israel. Christ fulfills this role not for Israel alone, but for the whole world
 - Moreover, unlike the priests of Israel, his priesthood is not linked to being a direct descendant of Aaron (the first High Priest), and the sacrifice he offers is not grain or animals, but the sacrifice of himself, the true Lamb of God, upon the Cross.
 - He is a priest “[after the order of Melchizedek](#),” that is, his priesthood transcends that of Aaron, and is not

“You are a royal priesthood”

1. This awe-inspiring priesthood of Christ is given to his followers in two ways: first in the “royal priesthood” of every believer, and second in the ordained priesthood of the Church as a specific ministry.
 - We all share in Christ’s priesthood when we offer the sacrifice of praise and of a broken and contrite heart before God. This joins us to his priestly work of reconciliation, and makes us priestly too.
 - The second form of priesthood (made of deacons, priests, and bishops), constitutes a special manifestation of Christ’s single priesthood in the life of the Church. It is an indescribable gift that allows for the building up of the Church above all through the life-giving sacraments (baptism, Eucharist, confession, etc.). It connects the Church of today right back to the Church of the Apostles, to Christ himself. And thus every believer is connected directly to Christ through this priestly ministry.

Reflection & Discussion

1. Even if I am not an ordained priest, how can I be more priestly in my daily life?
2. Why do the litanies in Orthodox services so often have prayers for our bishops as well as the clergy in general? What is the significance of this?

Further reading

1. [Hebrews 6:19–10:39](#)

2. [St John Chrysostom, Six Books on the Priesthood \(SVS Press, 1996\)](#)