

Christ Is Risen

By Matt Maher (2004)

See print copy for words.

We celebrate the Lord's Supper weekly—and in a circle, at the end of worship. A word of direction is given, and with this everyone stands and moves to the walls. The cup is passed in two forms: in a chalice and then in small individual cups. You are free to choose.

And as this is the Supper of the Lord Christ, please listen to the instructions we give as to what qualifies a visitor to participate.

But whether you intend to take communion or not, please join us in the circle.

Cover art: *The Parable of the Good Samaritan*. Engraving by John Everett Millais (1829-1896). **Song:** "Christ Is Risen" by Matt Maher. © Thankyou Music | spiritandsong.com | Unknown (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing) | (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing). All rights reserved. Used by permission. CCLI #188763

We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses.... [Hebrews 4:15](#)

Old Orchard Church

November 14, 2010—10:15 to 11:50 a.m.

Celebrating The Three Offices of Christ:

Jesus Our Priest

And the baptism of Josiah Ryan Butz

A priest mediates between man and God,
between man the rebel and God the Holy.

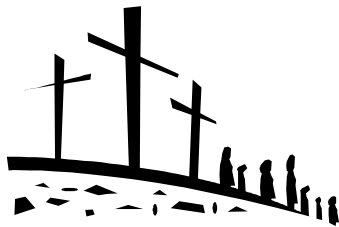
No priest of the Old Covenant
could ever care for God's people as Christ cared.

He, all sympathy and all compassion,
knows our weakness,
and offered himself up as sacrificial victim,
bearing wrath for our sake.

He, not born in the priestly line,
became our Great High Priest at the cross.

Bring now your sacrifices of praise
to him who continues to intercede for us!

Praise the high name of Jesus.



Scripture Readings

Old Testament Lesson: from Exodus 19 & 20

Epistle Lesson: Hebrews 7:19-28

Sermon Series on Ruth

“The Court Case”

Ruth 4

Ron Lutjens, senior pastor, preaching

On Why We Need A Priest

This morning we sing one of the great hymns of the church, “Holy, Holy, Holy.” And it’s exactly why we need a priest: God is three-times holy as Father, Son, and Spirit—and we are not.

Modern people cling to God as Love, and well they should. He is. But we’re skittish about God as Holy. If you could choose between the holiness of God and the love of God, which would you take and which would you leave? So would I. But are we permitted to choose? We do not author God the way the author of a novel shapes characters as he or she sees fit. God is what he is. And he tells us that he is holy and that he is love, together, in a profound mystery.

His holiness is why we need a priest; his love is why he sent his Son to take human flesh to be one for us. A priest stands between God and human beings. He represents to us the demands of God who is pure; and, on our behalf, before the face of God the Just, he offers sacrifice to cover the guilt of our corrupted hearts and unjust lives.

All this flies in the face of the modern notion that God’s love is an indulgent sort of thing. The modern world has tamed God. Of course, he **is** Father, with a heart full of love; but he is also Judge who demands payment for our offenses against the Divine majesty, of which all the beauty we see in the world is but a pale reflection. To say that God is holy is to say not only that he is morally pure, but also that the splendor of his being is far above our splendor. And it means that we, who sin and stain the splendor God gave us when he made us in his image, cannot be at peace with God without an advocate, a mediator, a priest.

But that’s what Christ is for us; that’s what we celebrate this morning! We need no longer dread the holiness of God nor deny it. When we come to Jesus in humble faith, owning our guilt instead of papering it over with smiles and respectable behavior, Jesus becomes for us a High Priest who pleads before the bar of Divine justice not our own moth-eaten righteousness but his own perfect life and sacrificial death on the cross.

So if you’re trusting in Christ this morning, rebuke your fear, turn your back on your guilty conscience, laugh at anything that shames you. If Christ is pleading your case, who cares who or what is against you?

—Ron Lutjens

