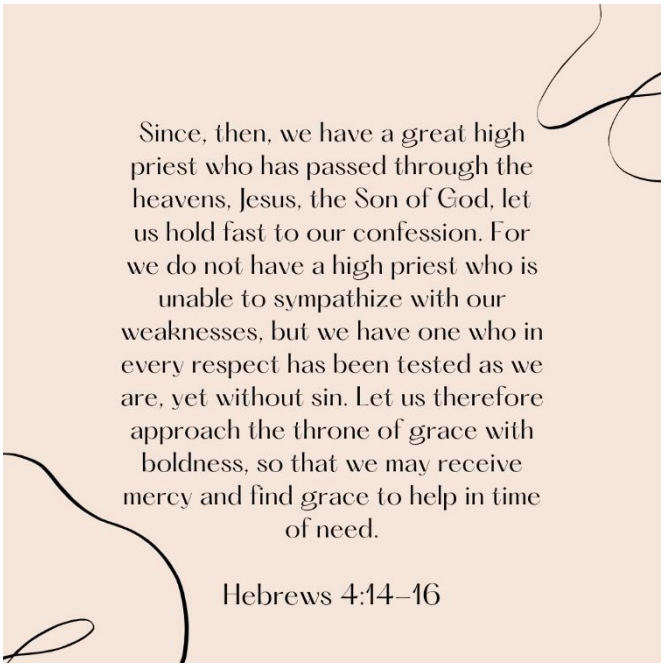
March 18, 2021 Lenten Devotional
Hebrews 4:14-16 - "Jesus the Great High Priest”
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Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us, therefore, approach the throne of grace with boldness so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

-Hebrews 4:14-16

Reflection

We have all been faced with temptation, and we will be faced with temptation again. This particular passage in Hebrews is a helpful reminder that we are not alone in facing temptation. We are given a strong example of how Jesus is very much human due to the fact that he has very much been tempted by the devil. Even though Jesus has been tempted, he remains having no sin. This shows that Jesus is both fully human and fully God!

Another important part of the passage that is important to draw out is the reference to the “high priest.” A high priest in Jesus' time was over all the people. Hebrews shows us that Jesus is unlike a high priest that sits above all of the people but rather he meets us where we are and is able to relate to the temptation we are facing because he has been through all sorts of temptation himself. While Jesus was faced with temptation from the devil, he held fast to God’s help in His time of need. Hebrews calls us to recognize that we have a sympathetic high priest who reminds us that we can and should call on God in our time of need. While God can seem distant in times of temptation, He is actually there, ready for us to turn to Him. One way we can turn to God in our time of need is through prayer. Whether we are facing temptation or whether we have fallen into temptation, it is never too late to turn back towards God and away from sin.

Dear God,

Thank you for sending us your Son to remind us that you are not distant. We acknowledge that He was faced with immense temptation and did not break. Thank you for being with us when we are faced with temptation. We ask that you give us strength to come to you in our time of need. Forgive us for the times that we turned away from you in our time of temptation. Help us to be like Jesus, strong in mind, always looking to you, knowing that you show us where to turn to. Help us also to lead others away from temptation in their time of temptation so that they too may receive Your grace and mercy. In your heavenly name we pray. Amen.