

A GREAT HIGH PRIEST

Take-Home · Session 2 · Made Like His Brethren · Hebrews 2:5–18

A Catholic Journey Through the Letter to the Hebrews

What We Found

Psalm 8 came true in one man first. Humanity's coronation psalm looks like a broken promise, “but we see Jesus”: made for a little while lower than the angels, crowned through the suffering of death, tasting death for every one.

Suffering vested him, not fixed him. The pioneer (archēgos, trailblazer) was “made perfect through suffering”: consecration language, not repair. He cut the path from inside our condition.

The crucified one is the cantor. Hebrews 2:12 puts Psalm 22:22 in his mouth: the psalm prayed from the cross turns to praise “in the midst of the congregation”. He leads your parish's worship from inside it.

Death's leverage is broken. He took flesh and blood in order to die, and through death destroyed the one who holds death's power, releasing those enslaved by lifelong fear of it (2:14–15).

He is not ashamed of us. With every fact in hand, he calls the people in our study his brethren (2:11). And the sermon dropped its first mention of its favorite title: a merciful and faithful high priest. We wrote it down.

Voices of the Church

St. Athanasius *On the Incarnation*

The Son of God became man so that we might become god, sharing by grace what he is by nature; by his death, death itself was slain from inside. The Catechism quotes his exchange formula at CCC 460.

St. Gregory Nazianzen *Letter 101*

What has not been assumed has not been healed: if the Son took only part of our condition, only that part is saved. The totality of the assumption is the totality of the cure.

St. Irenaeus of Lyons *Against Heresies*

The Word of God became what we are, that he might bring us to be what he himself is (Book 5, Preface); elsewhere in the same work (Book 2) he shows Christ passing through every stage of human life and gathering it up healed.

Live It This Week

1. Pray Psalm 22 once this week, whole: the descent and the turn, remembering who prays it with you.
2. Once this week, bring a real temptation to him mid-struggle, with 2:18 in hand: you have suffered this; help me now.
3. Read Hebrews 3:1–4:13 before next session, and note which Old Testament story dominates it. If you pray any part of the Liturgy of the Hours, keep your ears open this week.

Scripture Memory Verse

HEBREWS 2:18 (RSV2CE)

“For because he himself has suffered and been tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted.”

Before Next Session

Read Hebrews 3:1–4:13: a warning built on one wilderness story, and a psalm you may already know by heart.

Catechism Connections

CCC 456–460 (why the Word became flesh) · CCC 635 (death's tyrant disarmed) · CCC 609 (his free self-offering) · CCC 2602 (he prays for all he assumed)