

Daily Morning Message

St Paul United Church of Christ

5312 Old Blue Rock Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45247

Allen M Fluent, Pastor

Friday, March 19, 2021

Daily Lectionary Readings Psalm 51:1-12
Exodus 30:1-10
Hebrews 4:14-5:4

Today's Scripture Verse: *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. (Hebrews 4:14-15)*

What it means: The Epistle to the Hebrews draws a comparison between the sacrificial offering for sin made by the priest at the Temple altar to the sacrifice of Jesus when he sacrificed his earthly life on the cross. This is poetic language. It does not mean that Jesus gave himself to crucifixion, but that he was willing to die as God's faithful servant, an innocent sacrifice brought about by the sinfulness of the world.

Our time of reflection: In the world of human sinfulness – greed, selfishness, power over others and unjust privilege – the innocent are often sacrificed. Jesus' crucifixion at the hands of oppressive Roman power calls us to be aware when innocent lives are lost or spoiled because of wrongs committed against them, and to regard every such person as a beloved child of God.

