

WELCOME TO

Contemplative Sunday

LAST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

YOU ARE INVITED TO QUIET YOUR HEART,
REST YOUR SOUL, AND PREPARE IN SILENCE.

Archetype*: a model of a person who stands as a symbol of a collection of traits. A recurring character type that appears in literature, history, myth, religion, etc.

**Rooted in the work of psychiatrist Carl Jung, who believed that every culture or belief system has common archetypes that everyone could relate to and are part of our innate human psyche.*

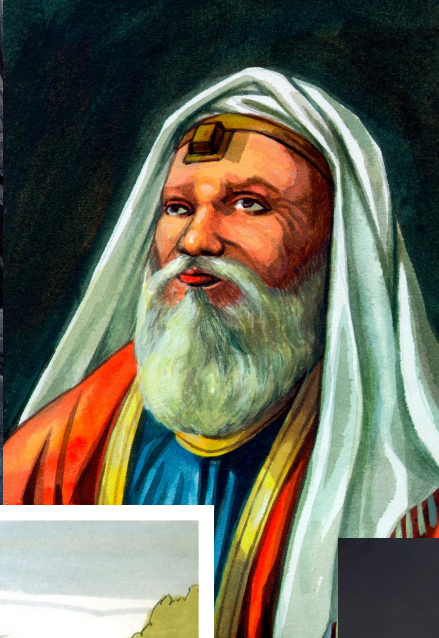
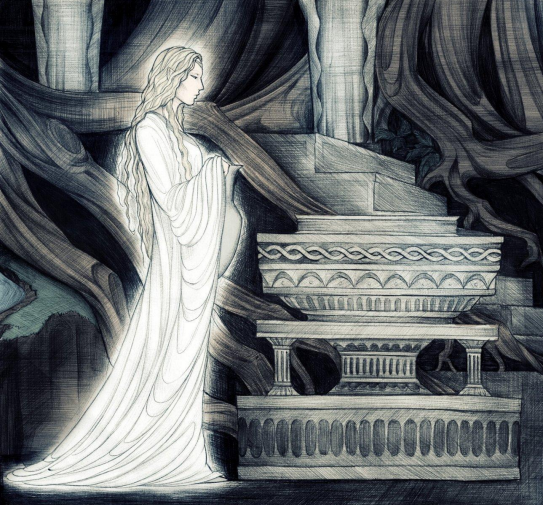


Opening reflection:

What is a priest?

When you hear that term, what do you envision? What images, feelings, or memories come to mind?





“The role of the priest is to tell the story of the whole community and help the community and the individual remember who they are and remember their name... A priest will call you back to gratitude and lament. Both are interwoven into the story of humanity, but the priest can hold both.”

–Cathy Loerzel

Reflect on a moment or season of liminality in your life, when something in your life had come to an end and you weren't sure what was next.

What priest-like voices spoke to you during this time? What kind of loving presence from friends, spiritual leaders, writers, etc. do you remember being the most helpful and transformative? How do their words or presence still resonate in your life today?



The Priest Archetype



“A priest, in telling the true story...is not just somebody who brings positive vibes, just good encouragement, just ‘I’m there for you.’ It’s that *and*: ‘I know how to take you into the Psalms of lament, I know how to take you into the heartache that you are not wanting to engage’... Will you let someone see your story, where you’ve been betrayed, where you have eschewed your own story? You need to...let someone grieve, howl, rage, be angry on your behalf.”

– Dan Allender

Where have you been betrayed and hurt? Is there heartache in your life story that you are neglecting? Secrets you feel burdened by? Sorrows you haven't shared with anyone? Unspoken questions haunting you?

Have you ever allowed someone to "grieve, howl, rage, be angry on your behalf"? Is there anyone in your life that you can trust to hold these parts of your story? How might God himself be desiring to show up for you in this way?



The Priest Archetype



“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity...

“...Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me... I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”

– Jesus in John 17: 20-23,26 (NIV)

All of the love, the access, and the glory of being in union with God that Jesus experienced, is offered to you! Open your heart to the Spirit – where do you sense God is making his love known to you today, right here and now?

Share the love! Where do you sense the Spirit inviting you to offer a priestly presence to others in your life? Who do you know who is in need of a safe space, a container for heartache, someone to affirm their innate dignity, goodness, and worth?

Communion Sunday

ALL ARE INVITED AND WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE