Sunday 16 February 2025 Third Sunday before Lent

COLLECT

Almighty God,
who alone can bring order
to the unruly wills and passions of
sinful humanity:
give your people grace
so to love what you command
and to desire what you promise,
that, among the many changes of
this world,
our hearts may surely there be fixed
where true joys are to be found;
through Jesus Christ your Son
our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Jeremiah 17:5-10

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

Thus says the LORD: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the LORD. They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse – who can understand it? I the LORD test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

PSALM Psalm 1

R *The Lord knows the way of the righteous.*

Blessed are they who have not walked
in the counsel of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the assembly of the scornful.
Their delight is in the law of the Lord
and they meditate on his law day and
night. **R**

Like a tree planted by streams of
water
bearing fruit in due season, with
leaves that do not wither,
whatever they do, it shall prosper.
As for the wicked, it is not so with
them;
they are like chaff which the wind
blows away. **R**

Therefore the wicked shall not be able
to stand in the judgement,
nor the sinner in the congregation of
the righteous.
For the Lord knows the way of the
righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall
perish. **R**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

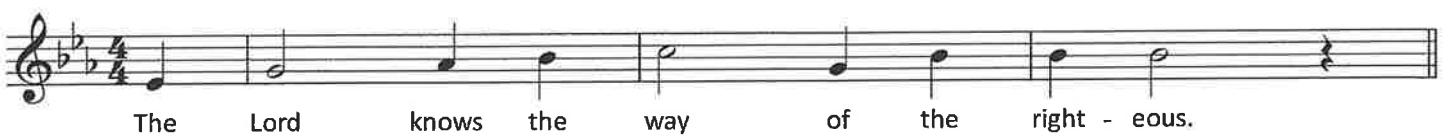
If Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ – whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

GOSPEL Luke 6:17-26

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them. Then he looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets."

POST COMMUNION

Merciful Father,
who gave Jesus Christ to be for us
the bread of life,
that those who come to him should
never hunger:
draw us to the Lord in faith and love,
that we may eat and drink with him
at his table in the kingdom,
where he is alive and reigns, now and
for ever.

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