Thursday of Lent 2 2021

11th century manuscript, the Codex Aureus of Echternach.

The God of peace and love remain with us always.

COLLECT
Heavenly Father, you anointed your Son Jesus Christ
with the Holy Spirit and with power
to bring to us the blessings of your kingdom.
Anoint your Church with the same Holy Spirit,
that we who share in his suffering and victory
may bear witness to the gospel of salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reading    Jeremiah 17.5-10
Thus says the LORD: “Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes
flesh his arm, whose heart turns away from the LORD. He is like a shrub
in the desert, and shall not see any good come. He shall dwell in the
 parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. “Blessed is
the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. He is like a
tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not
fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in
the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit.” The heart is
deceitful above all things, and desperately corrupt; who can understand
it? “I the LORD search the mind and try the heart, to give to every man
according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings.”

GOSPEL    Luke 16.19-31
“There was a rich man, who was clothed in purple and fine linen and
who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man
named Lazarus, full of sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from
the rich man’s table; moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. The
poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom. The
rich man also died and was buried; and in Hades, being in torment, he
lifted up his eyes, and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus in his bosom.
And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy upon me, and send
Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am
in anguish in this flame.’ But Abraham said, ‘Son, remember that you in
your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil
things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And
besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in
order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and
none may cross from there to us.’ And he said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to
send him to my father’s house, for I have five brothers, so that he may
warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.’ But Abraham
said, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.’ And he
said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if some one goes to them from the dead,
they will repent.’ He said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the
prophets, neither will they be convinced if some one should rise from the
dead.’”
PRAYERS  Lord in your mercy  Hear our prayer

These are based on a twelfth-century hymn, ‘Iesu, quadragesariae’

Jesus, for us you consecrate an abstinence of forty days,  
And summon us to make our fast, healing our minds this Lententide.  
Hear us, gracious God, as we ask you to strengthen us in our struggles  
against the world, the flesh and the devil:

Be present with your holy Church, be present in our penitence,  
When bowing low we offer prayer that all our sins be washed away.  
Hear us, gracious God, as we ask you to guide the Church, as she  
seeks new ways to fulfil her great commission:

3 The wrongs that we have done before, by grace abounding, you forgive;  
And from the failings yet to come, gentle protector, shield us still.  
Hear us, gracious God, as we ask you to help us let go of the past,  
especially sins which haunt us, when we find it hard to forgive ourselves:

4 The sting of conscience prompts us now to careful keeping of these days;  
Striving to find your atonement the path to Easter’s holy joy.  
Hear us, gracious God, as we ask you to set before us always the vision of  
Christ crucified, and the hope of Christ risen and glorified:

5 Your mercy, blessed Trinity, the whole created world acclaims;  
Renewed and pardoned by your grace, we sing our new song evermore.  
Hear us, gracious God, as we ask you to hear our prayers for those in  
need, both those who are close to us and people whose needs,  
but not their names, we know…

Merciful Father, accept these prayers, for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Please let me know if there is anything or anyone you would like included in  
Chapel prayers: dean@cai.cam.ac.uk

MAKING AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Take time to be still, silent, at peace; remember going to take communion;  
reach out your hands to the King of kings and Lord of lords.  
Picture the praying of communion that is still going on around you,  
though you cannot be there. Then say:

My Jesus, I believe that you are present  
in the sacrament of your body and blood.  
I love you above all things; I long to receive you.  
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,  
come spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace you as if you were already there,  
and unite myself wholly to you.  
Let me never be separated from you. Amen.

POST COMMUNION

Scripture says,  
‘I the LORD search the mind and try the heart.’  
Let us pray:

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy.  
Sustain and support the anxious,  
be with those who care for the sick,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may find comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.