Thursday of Lent 3 2021

The God of peace and love remain with us always

Icon of Theotokos with Old Testament Prophets

COLLECT

Almighty God,
whose most dear Son went not up to joy
but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory
before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we,
walking in the way of the cross,
may find it none other than the way of life and peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reading    Jeremiah 17.23-28

This command I gave them, “Obey my voice, and I will be
your God, and you shall be my people; and walk only in the
way that I command you, so that it may be well with you.” Yet
they did not obey or incline their ear, but, in the stubbornness
of their evil will, they walked in their own counsels, and
looked backward rather than forward. From the day that your
ancestors came out of the land of Egypt until this day, I have
persistently sent all my servants the prophets to them, day
after day; yet they did not listen to me, or pay attention, but
they stiffened their necks. They did worse than their ancestors
did. So you shall speak all these words to them, but they will
not listen to you. You shall call to them, but they will not
answer you. You shall say to them: This is the nation that did
not obey the voice of the LORD their God, and did not accept
discipline; truth has perished; it is cut off from their lips.

GOSPEL    Luke 11.14-23

Now Jesus was casting out a demon that was mute; when the
demon had gone out, the one who had been mute spoke, and
the crowds were amazed. But some of them said, “He casts out
demons by Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons.” Others, to test
him, kept demanding from him a sign from heaven. But he
knew what they were thinking and said to them, “Every
kingdom divided against itself becomes a desert, and house
falls on house. If Satan also is divided against himself, how
will his kingdom stand? —for you say that I cast out the
demons by Beelzebul. Now if I cast out the demons by
Beelzebul, by whom do your exorcists cast them out?
Therefore they will be your judges. But if it is by the finger of
God that I cast out the demons, then the kingdom of God has
come to you. When a strong man, fully armed, guards his
castle, his property is safe. But when one stronger than he
attacks him and overpowers him, he takes away his armour in
which he trusted and divides his plunder. Whoever is not with
me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me
scatters.
PRAYERS

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

We ask the Lord to help us give up lesser things, and take up new devotion to him this Lent.

Lord, give your Church the courage to let go her preoccupation with herself; may the blood and water flowing from Jesus’ side wash away our sins: LIYM

Lord, give the world’s leaders the courage to seek peace; may the shoulders of the risen Jesus, once scourged by soldiers, bear the burden of conflict in our world, for we cannot: LIYM

Lord, give us the courage to let go of quarrels, strife and jealousy; may the presence of the risen Jesus, his body broken but now whole, unite us in love: LIYM

Lord, give us the courage to live for others, and care for those in any kind of need; may the wounded hands of Jesus convey his healing: LIYM

Lord, give us the courage to let go the fear of death rejoicing with those who have died and are in your keeping. May the feet of the risen Lord Jesus, once nailed to the cross, walk beside the dying and bereaved in their pain, through the deep waters of death to the gate of glory: LIYM

Rejoicing in the fellowship of Our Lady, St Michael the Archangel, and all your saints, we commend ourselves and all your children to your unfailing love.

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 pray:

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

Jesus says, Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. Let us pray:

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.