Thursday of Sexagesima 2021

Please let me know if there is anything or anyone you would like included in Chapel prayers.

The Creation of Eve (1950) by Leon Underwood (1890–1975)

The God of peace and love remain with us always.

COLLECT
Almighty God,
you have created the heavens and the earth
and made us in your own image:
teach us to discern your hand in all your works
and your likeness in all your children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who with you and the Holy Spirit
reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever. Amen.

Reading

Genesis 2.18-end
Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.” 19 So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. 20 The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. 21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 22 And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. 23 Then the man said,

“This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
this one shall be called Woman,
for out of Man this one was taken.”

24 Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

25 And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed.

GOSPEL

Mark 7.24-30
Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, 25 but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. 26 Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. 27 He said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” 28 But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” 29 Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.” 30 So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.
PRAYERS

Lord in your mercy   Hear our prayer

We take time to hear and receive today's gospel story with its lesson about prayer: we may know little about Jesus; but something tells us that in him we can find the help we need.

Lord Jesus not all prayer is from conviction or firm faith. Help us whose faith is weak to pray for those we love, those who depend upon us; trusting that you can help us; and always hear us:

Lord Jesus, the woman in the gospel knew your identity; let us remember that truth is found in unexpected places, and listen to the voiceless when they speak aloud your truth:

Lord Jesus, this woman, out of love, acted on the faith she had in you. She saw the steps she had to take and took them. Give us a courage like hers in facing difficult choices:

Lord Jesus, when she came to you, you were tired, you longed to be alone, Yet still you had compassion on her: give us, give all who seek you, confidence to believe that you will not turn your face from us:

Lord Jesus, she did not bring her daughter with her; she had no need to set her before your eyes. As Lord of all the earth, and nothing is hidden from you, nothing beyond your reach. Reach out now in love to those who need you…:

Lord Jesus, as she was fervent and persistent, let us learn from her. May all the prayers we offer for others become blessings to ourselves, as we learn your way of selfless love. Let the love shown by this mother long ago be the root from which all our prayers for others spring:

Almighty God, you know our needs before we ask, and our ignorance in asking: Set your servants free from all anxious thoughts about the future, give us contentment with your good gifts, and confirm our faith that, as we seek your kingdom, you will not let us lack any good thing; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

Even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.

God our creator, by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise, and the bread of life at the heart of your Church: may we who have been nourished at your table on earth be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross and enjoy the delights of eternity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.