

Bible Readings & Prayers – 16th February, 2025

The Collect for the Third Sunday before Lent

Eternal God,
whose Son went among the crowds
and brought healing with his touch:
help us to show his love,
in your Church as we gather together,
and by our lives as they are transformed
 into the image of Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Jeremiah 17:5-10

This is what the Lord says:

‘Cursed is the one who trusts in man,
 who draws strength from mere flesh
 and whose heart turns away from the Lord.
That person will be like a bush in the wastelands;
 they will not see prosperity when it comes.
They will dwell in the parched places of the desert,
 in a salt land where no one lives.
‘But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord,
 whose confidence is in him.
They will be like a tree planted by the water
 that sends out its roots by the stream.
It does not fear when heat comes;
 its leaves are always green.
It has no worries in a year of drought
 and never fails to bear fruit.’
The heart is deceitful above all things
 and beyond cure.
 Who can understand it?
‘I the Lord search the heart
 and examine the mind,
to reward each person according to their conduct,
 according to what their deeds deserve.’

Luke 6:17-26

Jesus went down with the twelve disciples and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coastal region around Tyre and Sidon, who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by impure spirits were cured, and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all.

Looking at his disciples, he said:

'Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

Blessed are you who hunger now,
for you will be satisfied.

Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

Blessed are you when people hate you,
when they exclude you and insult you
and reject your name as evil,
because of the Son of Man.

'Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

'But woe to you who are rich,
for you have already received your comfort.

Woe to you who are well fed now,
for you will go hungry.

Woe to you who laugh now,
for you will mourn and weep.

Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you,
for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.