

Jeremiah 17:5-10

⁵ 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. ⁶ 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. ⁷ Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. ⁸ 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. ⁹ The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse— who can understand it? ¹⁰ 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.

Luke 6:20-36

²⁰ Then he looked up at his disciples and said: 'Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. ²¹ 'Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. 'Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. ²² 'Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³ 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. ²⁴ 'But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. ²⁵ '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. ²⁶ 'Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets. ²⁷ 'But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you. ³² 'If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

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.

Psalm 1

Happy are those who do not
follow the advice of the wicked,
or take the path that sinners
tread,
or sit in the seat of scoffers;
**but their delight is in the law
of the Lord,
and on his law they meditate
day and night.**

They are like trees planted by
streams of water,
which yield their fruit in
its season,
and their leaves do not wither.
In all that they do, they prosper.
**The wicked are not so,
but are like chaff that the
wind drives away.**

Therefore the wicked will not
stand in the judgement,
nor sinners in the congregation
of the righteous;
**for the Lord watches over the
way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked
will perish.**

**Glory to the Father and to the
Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is
now, and shall be for ever.
Amen**