

1447
1812

Friday Prayers - 988

3.9.84
16.10.89

St. Basil the Father [Basil]

Eastern Vespers
id. 2'

If you read the daily "office" prayers of the church, you will (perhaps) agree that the choice of readings we get from Christian writings, following the daily long-ish scripture readings, are ^{not always} seldom very inspired or inspiring — at least in the English translations. The style of the early fathers of the church, from which most of the daily extracts are taken, doesn't seem to fit very well with the concerns, the spirituality or the theology of most contemporary readers. It's a pity that we're not presented with a more attractive selection, translation or adaptation of some of the great seminal thought of Christian writers down through the ages. But that's another story — for today I thought to share with you prayerfully again one of the more striking readings we had recently. ^{Some weeks ago} Characteristically, it's from that very pointed, direct, no-holds-barred preacher from Constantinople of old, St. John Chrysostom, the "golden-mouth". He was also a very political preacher — I don't know the particular object of his comments in this piece, but it's based on a reading from the prophet Jeremiah: so, to begin with from the O.T., from the prophecies of Jeremiah in ch. 7

QQ. Brew. wk 21 Feb p 479

id. 2² ✓
3:02

For some reason now, "Prayer to Lord my Soul" MUSIC

Now from a homily of St. John Chrysostom

QQ. id. p 480

→ but it's a timely warning at any time. Circumstances do change, of course, but it only needs a little re-adjustment of details to make so many of John Chrysostom's comments = criticisms = observations of behaviour & attitudes just right for today... In fact, that's often true of what ancient fathers of the church ↓

said to their contemporaries, the instructions and advice they gave — very often you can hear it as a parable of sorts for our own day, for problems we have. A useful little exercise maybe, to wonder just what would Augustine, John Chrysostom or any other you like have to say about us, our church & society now — — — but don't keep it an intellectual exercise only: in prayerful re-action, what shd. we do? It's always fashionable, in one way or another, to criticize Christians for being hypocritical: there's nothing new about that, and if you're honest with yourself you'll also recognize the gap, the shortfall between what we do and are and what we shd do and be. We need the constant reminders — like maybe this one, from Old Testament times, from the book of the prophet Jeremiah. — ch 7

QQ. Prov. 479