

# Alongsiders' Prayers for April 2022

April 03, 2022

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

*All I care for is to know Christ and the power of His resurrection.   Philippians 3: 10*

**Scripture Readings:** Isaiah 43: 16-21  
Psalm 126  
Philippians 3: 4b-14  
John 12: 1-8

God loves us beyond a doubt and we rejoice in that fact. We are often weak and fail to do what is required of us, but God, in His mercy, sent His Son, Jesus, to take all our sins upon Him even before we were born.

How great is our God! We give thanks for the bible, the word of God, which gives us insight and knowledge to a lot of our questions. May we always follow God's example and be Christ like in all our actions.

**Collect:** Most merciful God, by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, you created humanity anew. May the power of His victorious cross transform those who turn in faith to Him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

God is present with us now. Let us bring Him our prayers and concerns for the church and for the world.

Loving God, breathe your life into the church, so that we speak your love to the world and are willing to suffer and prepared for sacrifice.

Lord, through your love: transform our lives.

Loving God, breathe your peace into the world, so that we work together co-operatively, sensitive to one another's needs and differences.

Lord, through your love: transform our lives.

Loving God, breathe your patience and forgiveness into our homes and all our relationships, so that we learn to cherish and respect each other and act with generosity.

Lord, through your love: transform our lives.

Loving God, breathe your encouragement into every sadness, so that the dark and painful times become places of strong spiritual growth.

Lord, through your love: transform our lives.

Loving God, breathe your welcome deep into the souls of the dying, so that death is only the door leading to the joy of eternal life with you.

Lord, through your love: transform our lives.

## **Alongsiders' Prayers for April 2022**

Loving God, breathe your grace into our knowing and our feeling, so that we rejoice each step of the way, whatever the terrain. Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

**The Lord's Prayer**

**The Grace**

# Alongsiders' Prayers for April 2022

April 10, 2022

The Sunday of the Passion

*Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, Hosanna in the highest.*

Dear friends in Christ, during Lent we have been preparing for the celebration of our Lord's paschal mystery. On this day our Lord Jesus Christ entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph. The people welcomed Him with palms and shouts of praise, but the path before Him led to self-giving, suffering, and death. Today we greet Him as our King, although we know His crown is thorns and His throne a cross. We follow Him this week from the glory of the palms to the glory of the resurrection by way of the dark road of suffering and death. United with Him in His suffering on the cross, may we share His resurrection and new life.

The Lord supplies all our needs and our time is in His hands. His spirit is in each one of us to do His will here on earth just as Jesus was in the heart of God to be our redemption and salvation. How are we doing on our spiritual journey of life? Look to Jesus for the answer. Thy will be done, hosanna in the highest.

**Collect:** Almighty and everliving God, in tender love for all our human race you sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take our flesh and suffer death upon a cruel cross. May we follow the example of His great humility, and share in the glory of His resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

As we recall Jesus entering Jerusalem, let us gather our thoughts and prayers.

Father, as the crowds welcomed Jesus and sang your praises, we pray that many more will welcome you into their hearts and lives over the coming year. We pray for opportunities to spread your good news and courage to take them.

You are our God: we welcome you!

Father, we recall the donkey Jesus rode on, and we pray for that real humility in our hearts, which treats status and image casually, and truth and loving service seriously.

You are our God: we welcome you!

Father, the children sang and shouted your praise, and we pray for the children in our homes, our city and our land. May we not fail them in the support and teaching they need.

You are our God: we welcome you!

Father, the crowds were responding to the healing love they had seen in action in Jesus. We bring to you in our love and imaginations now all those we would have brought to Jesus for healing and help. Give them comfort and reassurance, wholeness and hope.

You are our God: we welcome you!

## **Alongsiders' Prayers for April 2022**

Father, Jesus knew He was riding to His death. We pray for all on that last journey, especially those burdened with fear and guilt. We commend to your eternal love all who have died, thanking you for the blessings we have received, even for the grief which is part of the love we share.

You are our God: we welcome you!

Father, we, too, spread our coats on the road as we express our thankfulness for all you have done for us, and the amazing extent of your love. Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

# Alongsiders' Prayers for April 2022

April 17, 2022

The Sunday of the Resurrection : Easter Day

*Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us, therefore let us keep the feast.*      *Corinthians 5: 7-8*

**Scripture Readings:** Acts 10: 34-43  
Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24  
1 Corinthians 15: 19-26  
John 20: 1-18

God shows no partiality; He treats everyone the same. Whoever believes in Him and does His work will receive the remission of their sin.

Thanks be to God for His goodness and mercy. By Jesus came the resurrection and the gift of eternal life. In the garden, Mary came to the tomb where Jesus was laid. He was not there! She was weeping when Jesus appeared to her. She did not recognize Him. Thinking He was the gardener, she asked for her Lord. When Jesus spoke her name, she recognized Him immediately. He told her not to cling to Him for He had not yet ascended to the Father. He told her to go to the disciples and tell them "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, and to my God and your God." She was the first witness to the resurrection, and hurried to tell the good news. Jesus is alive for all time. The Lord of life cannot be held by death.

**Collect:** Lord of life and power, through the mighty resurrection of your Son, you have overcome the old order of sin and death and have made all things new in Him. May we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, reign with Him in glory, who with you and the Holy Spirit is alive, one God, now and for ever.

With joy in our hearts, come, let us pray together. We remember with gratitude the presence of the church in remote and highly populated areas all over the world. We pray for all other Christians rejoicing today in the wonder of the resurrection.

Life-giving God: give us new life in you.

We pray that we may recognize you as we walk through our days, and we ask you to disturb our complacency which is blurring our spiritual vision.

Life-giving God: give us new life in you.

We pray for the courage to speak out against injustice and oppression; we pray that our leaders may establish and uphold right values and sensitive legislation.

Life-giving God: give us new life in you.

We pray that those of our families and friends who have not yet met you may be drawn into your company and introduced, so they can enjoy your faithfulness and love.

Life-giving God: give us new life in you.

## Alongsiders' Prayers for April 2022

We remember those whose lives are filled with pain, anxiety or sorrow, and ask you to come alongside them and speak their name.

Life-giving God: give us new life in you.

With the words of resurrection fresh in our minds, we commend to you eternal love those who have died, that they may live with you for ever.

Life-giving God: give us new life in you.

Father, may our lips and our lives express our thanks and praise to you for rescuing us and setting us free to live. Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

### ***Welcome, Happy Morning!***

"Welcome, happy morning!" age to age shall say;  
Hell today is vanquished! Heaven is won today!  
He, the Dead is living, God forevermore!  
Him, their true Creator, all his works adore.

Earth with joy confesses, clothing her for spring,  
All good gifts return with her returning King:  
Bloom in every meadow, leaves on every bough,  
Speak His sorrows ended, hail His triumph now.

"Maker and Redeemer, life and health of all,  
thou, from heav'n beholding human nature's fall,  
Of the eternal Father true and only Son,  
Manhood to deliver, manhood didst put on.

Thou, of life the author, death didst undergo,  
tread the path of darkness, saving strength to show;  
come then, True and Faithful, now fulfill thy word,  
'tis thine own third morning; rise, O buried Lord.

Loose the souls long prisoned, bound with Satan's chain;  
All that now is fallen raise to life again;  
Show thy face in brightness, bid the nations see!  
Bring again our daylight: day returns with thee.

*Frances Ridley Havergal, 1871*

# Alongsiders' Prayers for April 2022

April 24, 2022

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter

*Have you believed, Thomas, because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.*      *John 20: 29*

**Scripture Readings:** Acts 5: 27-32  
Psalm 118: 14-29  
Revelation 1: 4-8  
John 20: 19-31

In Acts, we read that the disciples were proclaiming what they experienced and saw and believed about Jesus; that God sent Him to be the redemption for Israel and the forgiveness of sins. He was their strength and salvation. When the disciples had gathered together, Jesus came into their midst. They saw the nail prints in His hands and the sword mark in His side. He then breathed on them the gift of the Holy Spirit, who would help them to forgive sins. Thomas was not with the disciples when this happened. Jesus appeared a second time and showed Thomas. He believed, saying "my Lord and my God." Jesus replied, "Thomas, you believe because you see me, blessed are those who do not see me yet believe." Father, help us to always see you in everyone we meet along the way each day.

**Collect:** Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

In the knowledge that God is present with us, let us pray.

Father, we thank you for the gifts of sight and insight, and ask you to be there in all our looking. Help us always to see with eyes of faith, love and honesty.

Open our eyes: to see things your way, Lord.

We pray for our Bishop Sam and clergy in their demanding ministry of love, that they may be given all the support, grace and anointing they need.

Open our eyes: to see things your way, Lord.

We pray for the gifts of discernment and integrity among all those who govern, advise and lead. Clear away all self-centred ambition to free our leaders to serve.

Open our eyes: to see things your way, Lord.

Whenever we have eye contact with family, friends, neighbours or colleagues, be present in that communication, and remind us of our calling to love one another.

Open our eyes: to see things your way, Lord.

## **Alongsiders' Prayers for April 2022**

We call to mind those whose eyes are wet with tears or tense with pain. Help them to sense your reassuring love which can bring us through the darkest of valleys.

Open our eyes: to see things your way, Lord.

Jesus is the first fruit of the new and eternal life we are promised in you. We commend to your love those who have recently walked through death into that promise, and thank you for the privilege of knowing them here on earth.

Open our eyes: to see things your way, Lord.

Father, we thank you for loving us right through death into new life, and we rejoice in your victory over evil. Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

### **The Grace**