

ALONG SIDERS' PRAYERS FOR FEBRUARY 2023

February 5, 2023

5th Sunday after Epiphany

I am the light of the world, says the Lord. Those who follow me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life. **John 8: 12**

Scripture Readings:

- ✚ Isaiah 58: 1-12
- ✚ Psalm 112: 1-9
- ✚ 1 Corinthians 2: 1-12 (13-16)
- ✚ Matthew 5: 13-20

Jesus tells us as believers we are light to the world. We are to be reflectors of His light. The power of His Spirit works through us as we read, study and pray in faith to Him. Let us share that gift to everyone we meet. In doing so we will receive the gift of eternal life with Him in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Collect: Merciful Lord, grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

We are commissioned to live, so we shine like lights which direct others to God, the source of light. Let us pray to God, who has drawn us together, who loves us and loves our world.

We pray that there may be a revival of longing for your Kingdom to come, and a renewed commitment to working for, for a desire to love out our faith and worship in our daily lives this week.

Come Holy Spirit: set our hearts on fire.

We pray for all who have authority and power in our nation and our world to use it for good, upholding and instigating what is right and fair, and

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listening to the needs of those they represent. May we recognize our responsibility to support and stand up for God's values.

Come Holy Spirit: set our hearts on fire.

We pray that within our homes and communities there may be new awareness of one another's gifts and needs, more sensitivity and respect in our relationships. May we reverence one another as fellow beings born of your creative love.

Come Holy Spirit: set our hearts on fire.

We pray for all who are oppressed, downtrodden or despised. We pray for those who will not eat today and all who live in degrading circumstances of poverty and powerlessness.

Come Holy Spirit: set our hearts on fire.

We pray for those whose life expectancy is short, for the babies and children who have died, and for all who have come to the end of their earthly life and made that last journey through death. Thank you for your welcoming mercy and the promise of eternal life.

Come Holy Spirit: set our hearts on fire.

We offer you thanks and praise for the scriptures that remind and inspire us, and for your living spirit which enables us. Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

The Lord's Prayer

The Grace

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February 12, 2023

6th Sunday after Epiphany

Blessed is our Father, Lord of heaven and earth, who has revealed these things to the simple.

Scripture Readings:

+ Deuteronomy 30: 15-20

+ Psalm 119: 1-8

+ 1 Corinthians 3: 1-9

+ Matthew 5: 21-37

God has called us to a good life with Him. It is our choice – good over evil. He blesses us as we walk in His way. We are His workers in the field to show His love and mercy to all. There will be many attractions and distractions along this road. May we choose the right one. May we keep our eyes focused on the One who gave His life for us and pray to meet Him in His heavenly Kingdom.

Collect: Almighty and ever living God, whose Son Jesus Christ healed the sick and restored them to wholeness of life, look with compassion on the anguish of the world, and by your power make whole all peoples and nations, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

To live God's way is to choose the way of life. Gathered together in one spirit, let us pray to our God.

Father, whenever our attention has wandered from your calling, whenever we have fallen short of your will for us and failed to keep the spirit of your law of love, forgive us and transform us, so that we walk again the path that leads to life.

Show us the way of life: and help us to walk in it.

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Whenever the church is asked to give leadership on sensitive issues, whenever the current world expectations of behaviour need to be challenged in light of God's love, give us the wisdom and guidance we need.

Show us the way of life: and help us to walk in it.

Whenever our homes are lacking in love and mutual respect, whenever destructive relationships cause distress and heartache, and wherever people are made to feel they don't matter, give a new realization of your ways and our hopes for us, so that your kingdom may come, and your will be done.

Show us the way of life: and help us to walk in it.

Whenever there is illness, unhappiness, injustice or fear, whenever people feel frustrated, imprisoned or trapped, give us a greater sense of loving community, a heart to put right whatever we can, and the willingness to stand alongside one another in our sorrows.

Show us the way of life: and help us walk in it.

Whenever earthly lives have come to an end, and people are grieving the loss of their loved ones, fill these places with the eternal peace of your presence, and prepare us all through our lives on this earth for everlasting life with you in heaven.

Show us the way of life: and help us walk in it.

Father, we thank you for the personal and affectionate way you care for us and provide for all our needs. May we spread the good news of your love by the way we respond to you and to one another. Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

The Grace

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February 19, 2023

Transfiguration Sunday

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him.

Matthew 17: 5

Scripture Readings:

✚ Exodus 24: 12-18

✚ Psalm 2

✚ 2 Peter 1: 16-21

✚ Matthew 17: 1-9

In Jesus we see the full glory of God revealed and the splendor of His Majesty; the radiance of His light and love. We are His vessels to tell of His glory to all who will listen. May we never get tired of showing God's love and do what is right in His sight.

Collect: Almighty God, on the holy mount you revealed to chosen witnesses your well-beloved Son wonderfully transfigured: mercifully deliver us from the darkness of this world and change us into His likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever.

As children together in the family of God, let us pray now to our Father in heaven.

Lord, we pray that as Christians we may listen more attentively and with greater urgency than ever before to the words of Jesus. Give us more awareness of your presence with us, both in our worship and in our daily ministry, giving us the courage to live out your truth with joy.

Holy God: transform us and use us to your glory.

We pray for those who do not know you or dismiss you as irrelevant to their lives. We pray for those who influence and encourage others in what

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is evil, destructive or depraved, and ask for your protection of all who are vulnerable and in danger.

Holy God: transform us and use us to your glory.

We pray for all who are adjusting to new relationships in the family, new homes, or new work and leisure patterns. We pray for stronger root growth in you, so that we are not thrown away by the changes and troubles of everyday life, knowing the reality of your faithfulness.

Holy God: transform us and use us to your glory.

We pray for all who are too exhausted or overwhelmed by circumstances and pressures to be able to pray. Surround all those who are troubled and heavily laden with the revitalizing assurance of your presence, understanding and your love.

Holy God: transform us and use us to your glory.

We pray for those who have gone through death may know the brightness of everlasting life in your company. May we, with them, come to experience the glory and joy of heaven.

Holy God: transform us and use us to your glory.

Father, we thank you for the glimpses of your glory you give us in this life, for your friendship and your promise to be with us always. Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

The Grace

ALONG SIDERS' PRAYERS FOR FEBRUARY 2023

February 26, 2023

First Sunday of Lent

We shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. *Matthew 4: 4*

Scripture Readings:

+ Genesis 2: 15-17

+ Psalm 32

+ Romans 5: 12-19

+ Matthew 4: 1-11

Jesus knows all about temptation and He can deal with our sin. We carry guilt and shame when we sin just as Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. We all sin at one time or another. We repent and ask God for forgiveness. We find joy again because of God's grace to us. We will always be tempted in this world, but by faith and trust in God, we find new life and a fresh start through Jesus Christ, our Lord, our strength, our song and our salvation. He is the one who paid our ransom and loves us conditionally.

Collect: Almighty God, whose Son fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are but did not sin, give us grace to discipline ourselves in submission to your Spirit, that as you know our weakness, so we may know your power to save; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Our God knows us personally and the temptations we face. Let us pray to Him now.

As the church begins this season of Lent, we ask you to remind us of what is important and what is not, of where we are wandering away and what we need to change, so that by Easter we will be renewed and strengthened for your service in the world.

The Lord is God: there is no other.

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The world's misery and pain and desperate need of healing are clear to see and affect us all. We pray now for this damaged world with all its weakness, longings and failings, with all its potential and hope.

The Lord is God: there is no other.

Whenever a child is born we celebrate the creative hope of God. We pray for all being born this week and for their families and communities, that all our children may be loved and cared for, safe and happy.

The Lord is God: there is no other.

We pray for all who suffer through other's sin, all victims of abuse or oppression, or apathy, all whose adult lives are distorted and misshapen by early damaging experiences which need your healing.

The Lord is God: there is no other.

We remember those who, freed from the aging and pain of their bodies, can love now with you in the peace and joy of heaven.

The Lord is God: there is no other.

Lord, we give you thanks and praise for the hope we have in Jesus, for the strength to resist temptation and the joy and relief of forgiveness when we fall. Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

The Grace