

ALONGSIDERS' PRAYERS FOR MARCH 2023

March 5, 2023

2nd Sunday in Lent

The Son of Man must be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life.

John 3: 14-15

Scripture Readings:

- Genesis 12: 1-4
- Psalm 121
- Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17
- John 3: 1-17

Abram trusted God and always looked to Him for guidance. Nicodemus believed Jesus to be a teacher sent by God, but unable to believe Him to be the Messiah. Jesus also refers to Moses in the wilderness when Moses lifted up the serpent in the wildness and those who looked upon it lived. So, it is with the Son of Man, referring to Jesus being lifted upon the cross. By His death and resurrection anyone who believes in Him can know His power to save us and grant us the gift of eternal life with Him.

Collect: Almighty God, whose Son was revealed in majesty before He suffered death upon the cross, give us faith to perceive His glory, that being strengthened by His grace we may be changed into His likeness, from glory to glory who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Loving God, because we trust you, we come to you now with our concerns for the church and the world. We bring to you all those who find it so hard to believe, so hard to trust in a faithful loving God. We bring those who teach the faith, all those who preach and tell the good news. Give the right words for each situation and each person and enable the seed to take root and grow.

In you, O Lord: we put our trust.

We bring those whose authority and decisions affect the lives of many people and the health of the planet. We pray for sensitivity and honesty, and the strength to retain integrity even in positions of power.

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In you, O Lord: we put our trust.

We bring the newly born and their parents, and all whose family circumstances face change. Give us the spiritual flexibility to adapt to your guiding in all our relationships, and above all in our relationship with you.

In you, O Lord: we put our trust.

We bring all for whom illness or injury has caused disruption, uncertainty and the prospect of long-term change, all who find their lives are spinning out of control. Give them working knowledge of your total loving and unchanging presence, so that in all the changes and troubles of life they may be assured of your everlasting protection.

In you, O Lord: we put our trust.

We commend to your love and mercy all those who have made the journey through death, especially any who had died unprepared, or violent deaths. We thank you for your understanding and compassion, and pray that they may know the forgiveness, peace and joy of heaven.

In you, O Lord: we put our trust.

As we call to mind the guidance and help you give us each moment of everyday, we thank you and praise you, Holy God, for you alone have the words of eternal life.

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 MARCH 2023

March 12, 2023

3rd Sunday in Lent

Lord, you are indeed the Saviour of the world. Give us living water, that we may not thirst.

Scripture Readings:

- Exodus 17: 1-7
- Psalm 95
- Romans 5: 1-11
- John 4: 5-42

When the people of Israel complained to Moses that they had no water, he cried out to the Lord for help. God instructed Moses to pick up his rod, take the elders with him and strike a rock. Moses did as he was instructed, and water gushed out. We, too, have that living water by our faith in Jesus Christ. We believe in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We are given the gift of Jesus, the one who gave Himself on the cross for us, to take our sins upon Him. Those who believe this and confess have the gift of eternal life. Are we Thirsty for God?

Collect: Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life, may we always thirst for you, the spring of life and source of goodness; through Him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Thirsty for God, let us pray to Him now in the knowledge that He will provide for us in the way that is best.

Father, whenever the church is dry and parched may the water of your Spirit well up to refresh and renew, to bring life and strong new growth. Lord, make us more aware of our thirst for you so that we come to you ready and eager to receive your living water.

Living God: satisfy our thirst.

Father, from the conflicting needs and agendas of the world we cry for mercy, for a deeper understanding of one another, and a greater desire for co-operation and

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peace. We pray for sensitivity in handling delicate negotiations and the wisdom which reflects and listens.

Living God: satisfy our thirst.

Father, we pray that in all our relationships you will make us effective channels of your love and forgiveness. Make us awash with your living water so that our homes and places of work, our shopping and leisure centers, our conversations and actions are always in touch with the renewing power of God.

Living God: satisfy our thirst.

We stand alongside all those who are suffering, whether in body, mind or spirit, and long for your healing comfort, your strength for perseverance and your patience in the dark times. We long for your living Spirit to envelop and sustain them.

Living God: satisfy our thirst.

We pray for those who have come to an end of earthly life. Have mercy on them. May they, placing their faith in the God of life, share in the light and joy of heaven for ever.

Living God: satisfy our thirst.

O God, how we need you! We thank you for supplying us and coaxing us forward with such tenderness and affection

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 MARCH 2023

March 19, 2023

4th Sunday in Lent

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; those who follow me will have the light of life.

John 8: 12

Scripture Readings:

- 1 Samuel 16: 1-13
- Psalm 23
- Ephesians 5: 8-14
- John 9: 1-41

Samuel listened to God, the Shepherd, who showed him the way. Once we walked in darkness, but now we walk in the light. Jesus came that the blind may see. Jesus is the highest of the world. Those who follow Him will not walk in darkness. We are in His care. Trust and have faith in the Light of life. In doing so, we can care for and help one another along the way on this earthly journey. Follow the Light of all life.

Collect: Almighty God, through the waters of baptism your Son has made us children of light. May we ever walk in His light and show forth your glory in the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Let us pray to our loving God as children in one family.

We thank you, loving God, for giving us one another to enjoy, to laugh and cry with, to learn to live with. May even our conflicts and arguments be used in helping us to grow up in your love.

Loving God: we give you thanks.

Thank you, loving God, for showing us the way to love and giving us opportunities to give, to take second place, to accept people as they are, to forgive them when they annoy us, and look to their needs before our own.

Loving God: we give you thanks.

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Thank you, loving God, for the world we live in, for the colors and shapes, the sounds and textures in it. Thank you for giving us minds and emotions and helping us to revere the whole of creation.

Loving God: we give you thanks.

Thank you, loving God, for comfort and sympathy, reassurance and practical caring when we are ill or sad. Make us all aware of the needs of those around us and let our loving show in action.

Loving God: we give you thanks.

Thank you, loving God, for your promise to be with us always, and not just until we die. We remember with affection those in our family who loved us into existence and now live in eternity. Gather up into your loving arms those who have recently died and comfort all whose memories make them aware of loss today.

Loving God: we give you thanks.

Thank you, loving God, for giving us space and support, guidance and forgiveness, challenge and reassurance and the light of your love.

Merciful Father, accept those prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

The Grace

ALONGSIDERS' PRAYERS FOR MARCH 2023

March 26, 2023

5th Sunday in Lent

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.

John 11: 25, 26

Scripture Readings:

- Ezekiel 37: 1-14
- Psalm 130
- Romans 8: 6-11
- John 11: 1-45

The lesson in Ezekiel was to affirm that God can indeed raise people from the dead. Our hope is in the Lord. When we are spiritually minded the Spirit of God dwells within each one of us, and He will raise us to eternal life with Him. Jesus lived and walked this earth as we are doing. He knows each one of our hearts and whether we are in Him or in the world tied to external things, which will not offer us eternal life in Him. What dwells in your heart? I pray it is the Spirit of God. Amen

Collect: Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us with the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Jesus is the resurrection and the life. He can transform death and despair in any form into life and hope. As people of the living God, let us join together in our prayers for the church and the world.

Holy God, breathe your life into the church, breathe holiness and deepening faith, breathe energy, inspired teaching and fervent praise. Unlock the channels and make us more receptive to your gentleness and your power.

Breathe into us: so that we live in you.

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Holy God, breathe your life into the universe, breathe responsible caring, honesty and compassion, breathe right values and good stewardship, peace and reconciliation, vision and hope.

Breathe into us: so that we live in you.

Holy God, breathe your life into our homes and places of work, breathe increased patience and understanding, and courage to live the Christian life when to do so brings ridicule or demands sacrifice.

Breathe into us: so that we live in you.

Holy God, breathe your life into those who suffer, breathe comfort and wholeness, forgiveness and new confidence, breathe peace of mind and the knowledge of your love.

Breathe into us: so that we live in you.

Holy God, breathe your life into the dead and dying, breathe courage for the journey and the realization that you can be trusted. Breathe life that lasts forever.

Breathe into us: so that we live in you.

Holy God, breathe your life into us now as we offer you here our thanks and praise for your life laid down out of love for us. May our words be worked out in fresh commitment to you.

The Lord's Prayer

The Grace