

# ALONGSIDERS' PRAYERS FOR APRIL 2023

April 2, 2023

Palm Sunday

*Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the Highest!*

## Scripture Readings:

- Isaiah 50: 4-9a
- Psalm 31: 9-16
- Philippians 2: 5-11
- Matthew 26: 14-27: 66

God who knows all and sees all, the One who understand us, sent His Incarnate Son upon the earth in human form, Jesus our Saviour, to teach us of His divine love and forgiveness to all who truly believe in and love Him.

**Collect:** Almighty God, whose Son was crucified yet entered into glory, may we, walking in the way of the cross, find it is for us the way of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Jesus rides into Jerusalem cheered by crowds. Days later the crowds will be clamouring for His death. As we recall the events of God's love for us, let us pray.

Father, if we as the church are truly to be the body of Christ, then let us stand at the foot of the cross and learn what it means to love and keep on loving, to serve and keep on serving.

Father: let your will be done in us.

If the world is ever to see real hope, then purify and transform our lives, and stretch out our arms in loving forgiveness, with no exceptions and no small print, so we will shine as lights in the darkness.

God our Father: let your will be done in us.

If our workplaces, neighbourhoods are homes are to display and respond to your values, then make us more fervent in prayer, more courageous in self-discipline and, above all, more loving in outreach.

God our Father: let your will be done in us.

If the terrible suffering of extreme poverty, injustice and oppression is to be addressed realistically, then take away our greed and complacency and our assumptions about appropriate living standards, and teach us sacrificial self-giving  
Of time, energy and resources.

God our Father: let your will be done in us.

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Father, through the lifegiving death of Jesus, may the dying turn to you and know your merciful love; may the grieving be comforted, and may we all one day, share with all those who have died the eternal joy of your heaven.

God our Father: let your will be done in us.

Father, such amazing love is hard to grasp and impossible to repay. In thankfulness for lives set free to live we offer you ourselves.

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

## The Lord's Prayer

## The Grace

### *I Come to the Cross*

I come to the cross seeking mercy and grace,  
I come to the cross where You died in my place.  
Out of my weakness and into Your strength,  
Humbly, I come to the cross.

I come to the cross seeking mercy and grace,  
I come to the cross where You died in my place.  
Out of my weakness and into Your strength,  
Jesus, I come to the cross.

Your arms are open, You call me by name,  
You welcome the child that was lost.  
You paid the price for my guilt and my shame,

Jesus, I come,  
Jesus I come,  
Jesus, I come to the cross

I come to the cross seeking mercy and grace,  
I come to the cross where You died in my place.  
Out of my weakness and into Your strength,  
Jesus, I come to the cross.

Jesus, I come,  
Jesus I come,  
Jesus, I come to the cross

# ALONGSIDERS' PRAYERS FOR APRIL 2023

Sunday, April 09, 2023

Easter Day

*Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; therefore, let us keep the feast. 1 Corinthians 5: 7-8*

## Scripture Readings:

- Jeremiah 31: 1-6
- Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24
- Acts 10: 34-43
- John 20: 1-18

God is the Father of us all. Give thanks to Him each day. He loves each one of us. He shows no partiality. It is true that Jesus is alive for all time. He still heals and forgives. He loves us unconditionally. We must believe in the forgiveness of sin to receive the gift of new life. It was paid for us on the cross. We now have new life. Let us celebrate this Easter Day new life and that is divine love with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Alleluia! To God be the Glory!

**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 forever.

As we celebrate the new life of resurrection, let us pray to the one true God who brings us all to life.

Lord God, we pray that the church may proclaim with joy your message of hope for the world. May our lives as well as our worship testify to the truth of the Resurrection and broaden our vision of what is possible through new life in you.

Life-giving God: transform our lives.

Lord God, we pray for the world we inhabit; for those who lead, and make important decisions, and for those who follow or are coerced, or have no voice. We pray for mercy and justice, compassion and integrity. We pray for protection against evil and strengthening of goodness.

Life-giving God: transform our lives.

Lord God, we pray for all babies that they may be born into a world of love and acceptance. We pray for our confirmation candidates that they will always know the deep love that you have for them. We pray for those who provide foster care and for all children at risk. We pray for the newly baptized for a deeper commitment to supporting one another as we grow in faith.

Life-giving God: transform our lives.

# ALONGSIDERS' PRAYERS FOR APRIL 2023

Lord God, we pray for those who cannot think for the pain or anguish that engulfs them; for all whose lives are troubled and insecure; for those with little energy left to rejoice. Bring healing and the resources to cope with suffering and give us the grace to carry one another's burdens in love.

Life-giving God: transform our lives.

Lord God, we thank you for all lives well lived, and commend to your keeping those who have died, through the resurrection hope, may they know the joy of heaven.

Life-giving God: transform our lives.

Lord God, we thank you for the precious gift of new life; may we never again take it for granted but live each moment in the fullness of life that Jesus has gained for us. 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 2023

Sunday, April 16, 2023

Second Sunday of Easter

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

## Scripture Readings:

- Acts 2: 14a, 22-32
- Psalm 16
- 1 Peter 1: 3-9
- John 20: 19-31

Peter states that the grave could not hold Jesus. God raised Him up and all the disciples were witnesses to this. Through the resurrection we are saved through faith and salvation in Jesus Christ. Thomas was not there when Jesus appeared to the disciples, and he doubted. Jesus appeared again later, and Thomas believed. Jesus said, "blessed are those who believe and have not seen." Let us rejoice in the love of our Lord!

**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.

Through the risen Jesus we have a living hope which will never fade. As we gather with the presence of God in our midst of us, let us pray.

We bring to you, Lord, the church in all its richness and all its needs; all its diversity, and all its division. Give us a fresh understanding of what it means to live in you. May all of us, both laity and clergy together, celebrate the reality of your presence among us, filling us with new life and new hope.

Lord, in your presence: we lift our hearts to you.

We bring to you, Lord, our homes and families, and all the joys and sorrows of our relationships. We bring the rooms in which we eat and work and relax and invite you into them all.

Lord, in your presence: we lift our hearts to you.

We bring to you, Lord, our nation, our world, our universe; all the areas that are fastened shut to hold you out; all the bewildered confusion about who we are and why we are here; all the doubts and insecurity, and all the searching for inner peace.

Lord, in your presence: we lift our hearts to you.

# ALONGSIDERS' PRAYERS FOR APRIL 2023

We bring to you, Lord, those whom life has damaged, and all who find it difficult to trust in you; we bring to you those who need refreshment and hope, comfort, healing and inner security.

Lord, in your presence: we lift our hearts to you.

We bring to you, Lord, those who approach death with great fear and those who die unprepared to meet you. Have mercy upon us all, forgive us all that is past and gather us into your everlasting kingdom of peace and joy.

Lord, in your presence: we lift our hearts to you.

We bring to you, Lord, the love of our hearts as we recall the extent of your love for us which understands our frailty and reaches out to us where we are.

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

**The Lord's Prayer**

**The Grace**

# ALONGSIDERS' PRAYERS FOR APRIL 2023

Sunday, April 23, 2023

Third Sunday of Easter

*Lord Jesus, open to us the scriptures; make our hearts burn within us while you speak. Luke 24: 32*

## Scripture Readings:

- Acts 2: 14a, 36-41
- Psalm 116: 1-3, 10-17
- 1 Peter 1: 17-23
- Luke 24: 13-35

We are called to repent and baptized in the name of Jesus and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Be cleansed. God lives in each one of us. May we always, on the road of life, recognize Jesus in the people we see and talk to and may they recognize Jesus in us. Let us share the good news!

**Collect:** O God, your Son made Himself known to His disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see Him in His redeeming work, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Jesus explains the scriptures and is recognized in the breaking of bread. As we gather together to hear the word of God let us pray.

Walk with us, Lord on our journey of faith, both as individuals and as the church of God; open to us the truths you long for us to understand and inspire all who teach and encourage. Equip us all to pass on the good news of Easter.

Lord God: abide with us.

Walk with us, Lord, down the streets of our cities, towns and villages, drive with us on the highways and fly with us in the airways. Meet all those who are curious, searching or moving in the wrong direction. Let your presence be sought and recognized in all the world.

Lord God: abide with us.

Walk with us, Lord, in our life journeys, guiding, teaching and directing us as we learn the lessons of love in our homes, our work and our communities.

Lord God: abide with us.

Walk with us, Lord, through the times of suffering and pain, alerting us to one another's needs and providing for us in whatever ways are best for us. Help us to trust you through the dark times; breathe new life and hope into those who are close to despair.

Lord God: abide with us.

# **ALONGSIDERS' PRAYERS FOR APRIL 2023**

Walk with us, Lord, through the valley of death; may our love and prayers support those who walk that journey today. Draw close to them and welcome them into the joy of heaven.

Lord God: abide with us.

Lord God, we thank you for walking with us wherever we travel. We thank you that you are indeed real and alive every step of the way.

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 2023

Sunday, April 30, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Easter

*I am the good Shepherd, says the Lord: I know my own and my own know me. John 10:14*

## Scripture Readings:

- Acts 2: 42-47
- Psalm 23
- 1 Peter 2: 19-25
- John 10: 1-10

The disciples are continuing to grow the church with God's blessings, with the breaking of bread and fellowship, relying completely on the Good Shepherd, and His message of divine love and sacrifice, that all may come to Him and follow Him and who will eventually lead them home to eternal life.

**Collect:** O God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, that great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make us perfect in every good work to do your will, and work in us that which is well-pleasing in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Lord is our Shepherd as we are the sheep of His pasture. Let us bring to Him our cares and concerns for the church and for the world.

Good Shepherd of the sheep, we pray for the church; for all congregations, for Rev. Sam, for all who minister in word and sacrament, particularly for Bishop Sam, for their shepherding of the church. We pray for clear guidance and direction in those issues that disturb us, asking not that you lead us the easy way, but the way that is right and good.

The Lord is my Shepherd: there is nothing I shall want.

Good Shepherd of the sheep, we pray for the world we inhabit, the world we have inherited and will pass on to successive generations. Teach us to look after it carefully and wisely, to share its gifts more fairly, and work together to ease its sufferings. Turn the hearts of those who are excited by evil things and encourage the timid to speak out for what is wholesome and good.

The Lord is my Shepherd: there is nothing I shall want.

Good Shepherd of the sheep, we pray for our places of work, our colleagues, friends and neighbours, and the members of our families. We ask not for popularity at all costs, but for the grace to do your will and be your witnesses to what it means to live lovingly, both when this is easy and when it hurts.

The Lord is my Shepherd: there is nothing I shall want.

# ALONGSIDERS' PRAYERS FOR APRIL 2023

Good Shepherd of the sheep, we pray for the weak and vulnerable for those who must live depending on others for every need, and for those who are bullied or constantly despised. We pray for a greater reverence, one for another, for a greater willingness to uphold and encourage one another; we pray for healing and wholeness.

The Lord is my Shepherd: there is nothing I shall want.

Good Shepherd of the Sheep, we pray for those who have died; we pray for those who ache with sorrow at their going; we commend them all into your unfailing love and care which lasts throughout this life and into eternity.

The Lord is my Shepherd: there is nothing I shall want.

Good Shepherd of the sheep, we give you thanks that in you we are able to live through good and ill with abundance of life.

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

**The Lord's Prayer**

**The Grace**