

Alongsiders' Prayers for April 2020

April 05, 2020

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 27: 11-54

These scriptures remind us of God's great love for us. He came to earth in the form of human likeness. He was disrespected, treated with undue cruelty and suffered to take on all our sins. He became a humble willing servant for us all, so that we would be saved from all our sins, and gain eternal life with Him in heaven. Truly, Jesus is the Son of God, the Saviour of the world. In Him all things are possible.

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 the cross, find it is for 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 the crowds. Days later crowds will be clamouring for His death. As we recall the extent 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.

God our 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 that we shine as lights in the darkness.

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

If our work places and neighbourhoods and 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.

Father, through the life giving 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 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

April 10, 2020

Good Friday

All we, like sheep, have gone astray; we have turned every one to His own way, and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Scripture Reading:

John 19: 17-30

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned in thought, word and deed; we have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We pray you of your mercy, forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you in newness of live to the glory of your name. Amen

Almighty God, look graciously, we pray on this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

This is the wood of the cross, on which hung the Saviour of the world. **Come let us worship.**

We glory in your cross, O Lord,
And praise and glorify your holy resurrection;
For by virtue of your cross
Joy has come to the whole world.

May God be merciful to us and bless us, show us the light of His countenance, and come to us.

**Let your ways be known upon the earth,
your saving health among all nations.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
Let all the peoples praise you.

**We glory in your cross, O Lord,
And praise and glorify your holy resurrection;
For by virtue of your cross
Joy has come to the whole world.**

The Lord's Prayer

The Grace

April 12, 2020

Easter Sunday

The Angel said to the woman, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; He has risen, just as He said. Come and see the place where He lay. Then go quickly and tell His disciples. He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see Him. Now I have told you. Matthew 28: 5-7

Scripture Readings:

Jeremiah 31: 1-6

Psalm 118: 1, 2, 14-24

Colossians 3: 1-4

Matthew 28: 1-10

These scriptures teach us of God's constant, everlasting love, which never ever leaves us. He loves us all unconditionally and bought us with a great price. When we feel ravaged by pain, sorrow or separation on this earth, we can rest assured that our God will always be with us. We have the Easter promise. Do not be afraid, God is with us! It is true! Jesus is alive for all time! The Lord of life cannot be held by death. God's victory over sin and death means that a new life for us is a reality. As we celebrate the new life of resurrection, let us pray to the one true God who brings us all to life.

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.

Lord, 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 who 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, and those as yet unborn, that they may be born into a world of love and acceptance. We pray, too, for those who provide foster care, and for all children at risk. We pray for all parents and those who support them. We pray for the newly baptized, and those who are preparing for confirmation for deeper commitment to supporting one another as they grow in faith.

Life-giving God, transform our lives.

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

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

Lamb of Glory

Hear the story from God's Word
That kings and priests and prophets heard
There would be a sacrifice
And blood would flow to pay sin's price

Precious Lamb of Glory
Love's most wondrous story
Heart of God's redemption of man
Worship the Lamb of Glory

On the cross God loved the world
While all the powers of hell were hurled
No one there could understand
The one they say was Christ the Lamb

Precious Lamb of Glory
Love's most wondrous story
Heart of God's redemption of man
Worship the Lamb of Glory

April 19, 2020

Second 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 2: 22-32

Psalm 16

1 Peter 1: 3-9

John 20: 19-31

These scriptures assure us of our role as a Christian. Like peter, we are compelled to tell of the wondrous love and action our Saviour. Without Him we can do nothing. He has given us a new life-giving hope through His resurrection, and a promise of salvation for our souls. We believe because we trust in the Bible, which tells all truth, even though we have not seen Jesus. We know Him spiritually because of the gift of the Holy Spirit. Through the risen Saviour, we have a living hope which will never spoil or fade.

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.

As we gather here in the midst of God's presence, **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 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.

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, work and relax, and invite you into them.

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

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 serenity.

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

The Lord's Prayer

The Grace

April 26, 2020

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: 36-41

Psalm 116: 17-23

1 Peter 1: 17-23

Luke 24: 13-35

The road to Emmaus is such a story of life as it is today. There is so much going on in the world today, and on times when we face trials, tribulations and even joy, we lose sight of God's presence with us. However, when we do realize God's presence, we, too, have this welled up joy that almost bursts our hearts. Certainly, as we, too, break bread together, we feel the overwhelming love of God in our hearts as we recall the price He paid for our salvation. Jesus asks "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" As we gather to hear the word of God and break bread in the presence of Jesus, **let us pray.**

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.

Walk with us, Lord, on our journey of faith both as individuals and as the Church of God. Open for 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

Lord God, abide with us.

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

Lord God, abide with us.

Walk with us, Lord, in our life journeys, guiding, teaching and correcting us as we learn the lessons of loving 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.

Lord, 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