

Alongsiders' Prayers for August 2020

August 02, 2020

9th Sunday after Pentecost

They all ate and were satisfied and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.

Matthew 14: 20

Scripture Readings:

Genesis 32: 22-31

Psalms 17: 1-7

Romans 9: 1-5

Matthew 14: 13-21

Blessings from God are too numerous to count. Through the scriptures we read of God's love for those who were in need, who took refuge in His word, and from whom we were created. He is our living bread. God feeds all who come to Him hungry, and we, as the church, are expected to share in the work.

Collect: Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry with the bread of His life and the word of His kingdom. Renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your true and living bread, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Lord, awaken in us our need of you and make us hungry and thirsty for you, both as individuals and as the church of God. Let no other issues sidetrack us from seeking you, and increase our love and compassion so that we serve out your love to the world around us.

Bread of heaven: On you we feed.

Lord, allow our world to see the value of things so that the worthless and dangerous are unmasked and real needs acknowledged. Guide our leaders in wisdom and integrity, and enable us all to co-operate in proper care and stewardship of the world's resources.

Bread of heaven: on you we feed.

Lord, as we eat our food this week, remind us of your spiritual feeding. May the meals we prepare and eat together be opportunities for drawing closer to one another and to you.

Bread of heaven: on you we feed.

Lord, we pray for all who need medical treatment or are waiting in pain for surgery. We pray for those who have become addicted and long to be set free. We pray for all whose wrong choices have ended in heartache, disillusion and despair.

Bread of heaven: on you we feed.

Lord, welcome into your eternity all who have spent their lives coming to you and now come to be with you for ever. Have mercy on all those approaching death who do not know you, but reject what they imagine you to be. May they respond to the true and living God and know your love for ever.

Bread of heaven: on you we feed.

Lord, thank you for feeding us with spiritual food that satisfies our souls. Merciful Father, accept those prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

The Grace

August 09, 2020

10th Sunday after Pentecost

*Remember the wonders He has done, His miracles, judgements
He pronounced. Psalm 105: 5*

Scripture Readings:

Genesis 37: 1-4, 12-28

Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22

Romans 10: 5-15

Matthew 14: 22-33

Life will send us many situations, many trials and temptations. There will be jealousy and doubt, but always remember the judgements and the miracles God provides for us. Confess the truth and do not be fearful. God will never abandon us if we seek Him with all our heart. Trusting in our faithful God, let us pray.

Collect: Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your Church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love, joy and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Faithful God, we pray for the gift of deeper faith in you, so that we trust you in a way that alters our dependence on everything else, and allows us clearer vision as to the direction and role of the church. Remind us that it is your church and not ours.

Lord our God: let only your will be done.

Faithful God, as we call to mind the stormy areas of our world, the raging and the insecurity, the confusion and bewilderment, the restlessness and fear, let your calming and reassuring presence be sensed and recognized, bringing peace and goodness, righteousness and hope.

Lord our God: let only your will be done.

Faithful God, come to us in the storms of life when we let one another down, mishandle opportunities, and come to the end of our strength or patience. Bless us with the love that never lets us down.

Lord our God: let only your will be done.

Faithful God, we place into your loving arms all those who have died, knowing their dependence on you and your limitless mercy. We thank you for them and their gifts to the world, and ask that we may, in our turn, come to you across the waters of death, and live in your company for ever.

Lord our God: let only your will be done.

Faithful God, whose promises stand sure for ever, we thank you for your patience with us and your refusal to give up on us. Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

The Grace

August 16, 2020

11th Sunday after Pentecost

How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity.

Psalm 133: 1

Scripture Readings:

Genesis 45: 1-15

Psalm 133

Romans 11: 1-2a, 29-32

Matthew 15: 21-28

God's plans for our lives are not always clear to us. Sometimes there is much heartache and loss along the way that doesn't fit. Even in our own families there is division and discourse as in Joseph's story of betrayal. God knows best. He knows everything about us and is always on our side. Let us be open to His leading and choose our words wisely, for as Jesus declares in Matthew *"It is not what goes into a man's mouth that makes him unclean, but what comes out of his mouth that is what makes him unclean."* Thank God for His leading and instruction for our journey. The good news of salvation is not limited to a particular group or nation, but available to the whole world.

Collect: Almighty God, you have broken the tyranny of sin and sent into our hearts the Spirit of your Son. Give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service, that all people may know the glorious liberty of the children of God; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

In faith, let us pray to God who is Lord of all the earth.

Holy God, may the worship of your church throughout the world be attentive and expectant, ready to be set on fire again and again without expectations, and without limits and without praise.

Servant God: let us honour you with our lives.

Holy God, may all that encourages people in goodness, honesty and compassion be blessed and grow. May all that encourages self-seeking and cruelty, prejudice and deceit wither and be exposed as the unsatisfying rubbish that it is. May we learn from one another's culture and respect one another's differences.

Servant God: let us honour you with our lives.

Holy God, we thank you for the joy of human love, and for all those among whom we live and work. We pray particularly for loved ones who worry us with their health, or circumstances, or life direction. We pray for those among our friends and families who do not know you, or whose faith has been shaken.

Servant God: let us honour you with our lives.

Holy God, we pray for all those whose backgrounds make belief in a loving God laughable or terrifying. We pray for all who suffer mental or emotional anguish and those who despair. We pray for those facing another day of pain, another day of hunger, another day of fear.

Servant God: let us honour you with our lives.

Holy God, gather into your eternal kingdom all who have come to the end of this earthly life, and rejoice to see you as you really are. We remember all whom we love but can no longer see. Thank you for your overarching love and undergirding faithfulness to us.

Servant God: let us honour you with our lives.

Holy God, we remember with gratitude all who gave up so much to bring the good news to our country. We pray that, with us, it may continue to be spread until the whole earth knows of your truth and love. Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

The Grace

August 23, 2020

12th Sunday after Pentecost

Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God. Matthew 16: 16

Scripture Readings:

Exodus 1: 8-2:10

Psalms 124

Romans 12: 1-8

Matthew 16: 13-20

Sometimes we find it hard not to conform to every day standards of this world. We must keep the faith and stay on the path God has chosen for us. The Lord will provide for us along the way. God has given us gifts, His word, which is our life guide, but he has also blessed us with wisdom and understanding like Peter, who boldly said "Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God." This was revealed to him by God alone and so it is with us. God speaks to us. He reveals much to us as we travel this road with Him. Thanks be to God for He is our help. Increase our Faith, O Lord. The church is the body of Christ built on a strong rock of faith, and energised by the living breath of God.

Collect: Almighty God, we are taught by your word that all our doings without love are worth nothing. Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtue; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Gathered as the Church of God, members of the Body of Christ, let us pray together.

Fill your church, O Lord, with life and energy, spiritual health and vitality. As we feed on you may we grow more like you, minister with your tenderness, serve with your humility, and co-operate with your vision.

In you, O Lord: is all meaning and truth.

Fill your world, O Lord, with wonder at creation, recognition of our mutual human responsibility, desire for reforming what is at fault, and hope in the possibilities of living at peace with God and one another.

In you, O Lord: is all meaning and truth.

Fill our homes and neighbourhoods, O Lord, with the generosity and trust that allows space, but is always ready to encourage and support. May we cherish our minds, bodies and spirits as temples containing your Spirit, and honour one another as people of your making.

In you, O Lord: is all meaning and truth.

We pray for all who are ill at home or in hospital, for all in emergency surgery or casualty, for those who have just discovered that they have injuries or illnesses that will change their lives. We pray for the work of all who heal and comfort, all who visit the sick and counsel the distressed.

In you, O Lord: is all meaning and truth.

We pray for the dying and those who love them. We pray for those who have completed this life who have made the journey through death. We pray for the work of those who comfort the bereaved.

In you, O Lord: is all meaning and truth.

Fill our hearts, O Lord, with thankfulness and praise as we recall your faithfulness and live in your love. Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

The Grace

August 30, 2020

13th Sunday after Pentecost

If anyone would come after me, he must deny Himself and take up His cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save His life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it.

Matthew 16: 24-25

Scripture Readings:

Exodus 3: 1-15

Psalms 105: 1-6, 23-26

Romans 12: 9-21

Matthew 16: 21-28

God loves us so much and tries so hard to get our attention. We often fail to see it. I can imagine Moses' shock on seeing God in the burning bush, or Peter trying to protect Jesus by rebuking His claim of suffering. We get so caught up in our love for Jesus that we also become stumbling blocks for the Lord. We think maybe we are not good enough or smart enough to do the Lord's work. All of God's work is based on love, unconditional love. Let us take up our cross and follow Jesus and spread His love to everyone, not counting the cost. We will surely find eternal life with the one who loves us and gave His life all for us.

Collect: Author and Giver of all good things, graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us in all goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

As followers of Jesus Christ, let us pray to our loving Father in Heaven.

Father, help us in your church to understand what is really means to love and serve you. At times of testing, strengthen us, at unexpected or undeserved suffering, support us, at the end of our energy, revive us and teach us through it all the inexplicable peace and joy and comes from doing your will.

We look to the cross: and see your love for us.

Father, have mercy on us for the misdirected use of time, money and resources on this world. In the struggle against evil and sin, empower us so that justice and righteousness are established, upheld and celebrated as hearts rejoice in the freedom of all that is good.

We look to the cross: and see your love for us.

Father, renew our commitment to your loving in all our relationships, our work and our prayer. In the hard choices, give us wisdom, in the painful decisions, affirm us, and may our words speak your truth whether that is to encourage, to comfort or to challenge.

We look to the cross: and see your love for us.

Father, bring healing and wholeness to those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit. In the sleepless nights and endless days of pain, give the grace to persevere with patience, and turn these dark times into places of spiritual growth.

We look to the cross: and see your love for us.

Father, may those who have died rest in the eternal peace of your presence, their burdens laid down and their suffering ended.

We look to the cross: and see your love for us.

Father, the full extent of your love for us is so much greater than we can ever imagine, and in our love and thankfulness, we offer the praise of our lives. Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

The Grace