

Alongsiders' Prayers for September 2020

September 06, 2020

14th Sunday after Pentecost

I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

Matthew 18: 18

Scripture Readings:

Exodus 12: 1-14

Psalm 149

Romans: 13: 8-14

Matthew 18: 15-20

We remember today the Passover from the Old Testament reading as a time of God's great mercy, and a time of praise and thanksgiving for all. As we follow God's law and love, we know the way to deal with sin and reconciliation is through the power of prayer, and God's presence with us each day as we journey through our lives. May we do this for His honour and glory.

Collect: Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people, that richly bearing the fruit of good works, we may by you be richly rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

It is our responsibility to encourage and uphold one another in living by the standard of real love. In our need and human weakness, let us come to Almighty God with our prayers. Unchanging God, change us from the heart until the whole church awakens to your love that reaches out, nurtures and celebrates, neither holding back what is difficult, nor rushing where angels fear to tread. We pray for sensitivity and courage.

Lord, take us by the hand: and lead us.

Almighty God, give us such love for the world that we may pray with longing and desire, your kingdom come! Give our leaders the grace to see their work as service and their role as stewards. Sharpen both the recognition of needs and the commitment to just provision.

Lord, take us by the hand: and lead us.

Merciful God, break all habits of destructive behaviour in our homes and families, our friendships, and in all the homes of our parish. Develop our ability to celebrate what is good and face what is not with honesty.

Lord, take us by the hand: and lead us.

Healing God, lay your hands on those who suffer so that they may know the support of your presence, and find wholeness and peace in your love. We pray especially for those who are locked into the conviction that they are beyond your forgiveness. May they quickly discover the freedom of your acceptance.

Lord, take us by the hand: and lead us.

Alongsiders' Prayers for September 2020

Eternal God, in your unchanging love, receive all those who have died in faith that they may rejoice in you forever.

Lord, take us by the hand: and lead us.

Gracious God, we thank you for providing us with a sure hope in which we can face the worst and not be overwhelmed.

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 September 2020

September 13, 2020

15th Sunday after Pentecost

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered "I tell you not seven times, but seventy times seven."

Matthew 18: 21-22

Scripture Readings:

Exodus 14: 19-31

Psalm 114

Romans 14: 1-12

Matthew 18: 21-35

When we have trials or fall into sin, where do we put our trust? God is waiting for us to come to Him. There is no limit to His forgiveness for our sins. Let us go into the presence of the Almighty God and trust in His amazing love and mercy, as He equips us to offer the same forgiveness to others.

Collect: Almighty God, you call your Church to witness that in Christ we are reconciled to you. Help us so to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may turn to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Forgiving is a natural result of loving, so it is not an option for us, but a command. In the knowledge of all God has done for us, let us bring Him our concerns for the Church and for the world.

Thank you, Lord, for the love which forgives again and again, and is prepared to trust us with the care of your people, even after we have let you down again and again. Teach us to minister to one another's needs with compassion, sensitivity and discipline, so that all are affirmed and encouraged.

The Lord is full of compassion: His love lasts for ever.

Thank you, Lord, for the order and variety, simplicity and complexity of this universe. Thank you for all that humankind is able to do. May all these gifts be used wisely and well for the good of all, including those as yet unborn.

The Lord is full of compassion: His love lasts for ever.

Thank you, Lord, for what we have been forgiven, and for the opportunities we have each day to learn the joy of forgiving others. Smash through our self-righteousness, and keep us learning in humility at your feet.

The Lord is full of compassion: His love lasts for ever.

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Thank you, Lord, for all those who care for the sick, the unstable, the ungrateful, and the difficult. We pray for all those who are on the receiving end of hate, deceit, suspicion or abuse, and for those who cause others pain and distress of any kind. We pray for your healing and transforming.

The Lord is full of compassion: His love lasts for ever.

Thank you, Lord, for those whose living and dying has taught us much about love. Freed from their pain and restrictions of age or injury, may they enjoy for ever the life of heaven.

The Lord is full of compassion: His love lasts for ever.

Thank you, Lord, for disturbing our complacency and challenging us to move forward with you, assured of your company and your love. 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 September 2020

September 20, 2020

16th Sunday after Pentecost

Open our hearts, O Lord, to give heed to what is said by your Son.

Scripture Readings:

Exodus 16: 2-15

Psalm 105: 1-6, 37-45

Philippians 1: 21-30

Matthew 20: 1-16

Sometimes we grumble about things, but God always helps us and shows us the way. We rejoice in His word and His presence with us. When we are close to the Lord we want to be with Him, but not until He is ready for us. We must continue to do His work here on earth, and we will be rewarded in heaven for our work on earth whether we started early or late. God treats us all equal as He told us in the parable of the vineyard in our gospel reading today.

Collect: Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth, and ourselves in your image. Teach us to discern your hand in all your works and to serve you with reverence and thanksgiving, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

We have no right to be envious at the generosity and mercy God shows to others. Let us come with openness to express our concerns for the Church and the world to the God of compassion and gracious understanding.

Loving Father, whenever we start to get offended by your generosity or open mindedness, give us the grace to repent and join your rejoicing. Guard the Church against self- righteous and all rules and limits which you would not own, but keep always before us the rule of love.

Not our will: but your will, Lord, be done.

Loving Father, increase in us love, not only for the victims, but for the perpetrators of evil and violence in our world, and for all governments which run on corruption and fear. We pray for a change of heart and attitude, an awakening to a better way of living, and the courage to reject wrong principles.

Not our will: but your will, Lord, be done.

Loving Father, may our closeness to family and friends make us never exclusive, shutting others out, but always inclusive, welcoming others into our lives. Encourage us in outgoing hospitality and keep us from becoming possessive with those we love. Encourage us in outgoing hospitality and keep us from becoming possessive with those we love.

Not our will: but your will, Lord, be done.

Alongsiders' Prayers for September 2020

Loving Father, we pray for all offenders in prison that on release, they will not re-offend, but find enough support to start a new life in the community. We pray for all who are vulnerable and unable to cope with the demands of life, for alcoholics, drug addicts, and all who are sick in mind. We pray for proper compassionate help for them.

Not our will: but your will, Lord, be done.

Loving Father, we pray for those who have died alone, un-mourned and unnoticed. We pray for those who have committed suicide or died in accidents of their own making. We commend them to your merciful love.

Not our will: but your will, Lord, be done.

Loving Father, we thank you for helping us to pray. Deepen our loving so that, as we pray through this week, we may do it with your heart of compassion. 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 September 2020

September 27, 2020

17th Sunday after Pentecost

If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from His love, if any fellowship with the spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.

Philippians

2: 1-2

Scripture Readings:

Exodus 17: 1-7

Psalms 78: 1-4, 12-16

Philippians 2: 1-13

Matthew 21: 23-32

Again, we find the Israelite Community complaining to Moses about no water, and Moses talking to God asking Him what to do. God, in His love and mercy, provides the water. We shall never forget, and must always tell of God's power, wonders and miracles He continues to shower upon us, unworthy as we are. It is important to recognize the glory of God in our lives today as it was back in the Old Testament. He is the God of us all, and we acknowledge Him in all we do. Praise His Holy name.

Collect: Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered by your Holy Spirit into one, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. God longs for us to die to sin and live, but it has to be our choice, also. God has called us. As we gather in His name, let us bring Him our prayers which come from our love and concern.

Lord, we thank you for all the help and encouragement we are given from the Church, from its worship, teaching and fellowship; from its faithfulness in prayer. Bless and further all loving ministry in word and sacrament throughout the world Church; inspire us all to want your will and to do it.

O God, work in us: inspiring both will and deed.

Lord, we pray for the world where the misery and tragedy of wrong choices grieves your heart of love. Let there be wisdom and compassion in all negotiations and discussions; let there be humility in leadership and responsibility for right action shared by all.

O God, work in us: inspiring both will and deed.

Lord, we bring to you the joys and worries, the frustrations and accomplishments of this week in the lives we have met and shared. As we pray, let your light shine into all these lives for fresh directing and lasting good.

O God, work in us: inspiring both will and deed.

Alongsiders' Prayers for September 2020

Lord, we bring to you those we know who are ill or suffering in any way. Give them healing, restore them in body, mind and spirit.

O God, work in us: inspiring both will and deed.

Lord, we remember in your presence, all those who have died, particularly, those we have known and loved. Thank you for them, and thank you for your promise of eternal life and peace. May we comfort one another through your love.

O God, work in us: inspiring both will and deed.

Lord, we thank you for your offer of life in all its abundance. May we accept it with joy every day 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