

Alongsiders' Prayers for October 2020

October 04, 2020

18th Sunday after Pentecost

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: The stone the builders rejected as worthless turned out to be the most important of all. This was done by the Lord: what a wonderful sight it is!"

Scripture Readings:

Exodus 20: 1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Psalms 119

Philippians 3: 4b-14

Matthew 21: 33-46

God demands our faithfulness to worship Him only and He will be faithful to us. The word of God is great and it demands obedience from us with the promise of salvation. Accept Him and righteousness will come through Jesus Christ who gives us the gift of life eternal.

Collect: Almighty God, you have built your Church on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone. Join us together in unity of spirit by their teaching, that we may become a holy temple, acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

God does everything possible for our spiritual growth and well-being, but still we can choose hostility and rejection. Let us pray trustfully to the God who has loved and cherished us all our life.

Loving God, guide your Church into ways of spiritual beauty and gracious wisdom. May your word be spoken out with passion and heard with humility and joy. Sustain and feed us so that we bear fruit in abundance.

Root your people: firmly in your love.

Loving God, may justice and righteousness flourish in this neighbourhood, this country, this world. Bless those who work to right what is wrong and meditate where there is conflict. Raise up leaders who are happy to serve and protect them from power's corruption.

Root your people: firmly in your love.

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Loving God, we thank you for the nurturing we have received, and pray for our children and young people as they grow. Protect them from evil and strengthen them in faith. May they continue to be yours forever.

Root your people: firmly in your love.

Loving God, give comfort and healing to all who are in any kind of need, sorrow or pain. May they sense your reassuring presence and know that you are there with them wherever their journey takes them.

Root your people: firmly in your love.

Loving God, we pray for those who have died to this earthly life and now see you face to face. We remember your mercy and commit our loved ones to the safety of your keeping.

Root your people: firmly in your love.

Loving God, we thank you for all the care and attention that you lavish on us. Make us worthy of our calling and continue your ongoing work in 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 October 2020

October 11, 2020

19th Sunday after Pentecost

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition with thanksgiving present your requests to God.

Philippians 4:6

Scripture Readings:

Exodus 32: 1-14

Psalms 106: 1-6, 19-23

Philippians 4: 1-9

Matthew 22: 1-14

To stand fast in the Lord is to stand fast in His strength and by His grace. We must be of one mind and help each other along the way. We are all invited to God's wedding banquet. In accepting, we must let go of our old lives for the freely given gift of new life in Christ.

Collect: Almighty God, in our baptism you adopted us for your own. Quicken, we pray, your Spirit within us, that we, being renewed both in body and mind, may worship you in sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Invited by our God, we have gathered here. Let us now voice our prayers for the Church and for the world.

Father, when either the traditional or the progressive blinds us to the truth of your will, clear our vision and speak through our prejudices until we are once again open to your changing. May we be, before anything else, your people, sharing your concerns and desires.

As you have called us: Lord, we come.

Father we recognize how powerful the influences are in our world which distract many and lead away from your truth. We pray for the quiet whisper of your wisdom to be noticed and acknowledged in many lives. We pray for widespread discipline of the heart, a new openness to generosity of spirit.

As you have called us: Lord, we come.

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Father, may our homes and daily schedules be part of the territory of your kingdom, where it is your will which guides and your love which rules.

As you have called us: Lord, we come.

Father, may our hearts rail against the cruelty and unfairness of suffering and disease. We kneel now alongside all in pain and weep with them, crying out to you for comfort and the healing of your love. You are no bringer of evil to our lives, but share our sorrow and give us the grace to bear it.

As you have called us: Lord, we come.

Father, as death takes from us those we love, and we find it hard to live without them, take from us all bitterness of heart, and let us share with them the peace you give over which death has no power at all.

As you have called us: Lord, we come.

Father, it is such an honour to be invited to your banquet. Make us worthy of our calling.

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

The Lord's Prayer

The Grace

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October 18, 2020

20th Sunday after Pentecost

We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labour, prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 1: 3

Scripture Readings:

Exodus 33: 12-23

Psalms 99

1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10

Matthew 22: 15-22

We know God is faithful with us in all we do. Just as Moses requested of God to see Him in His glory, we often times want the same - to see His majesty and glory all around us, after all we are made in His image. Therefore, we never tire of seeking God in all we do, and remain faithful to carry on His work proclaiming the gospel.

Collect: Almighty and everliving God, increase in us your gift of faith, that forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to what is before, we may run the way of your commandments and win the crown of everlasting joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All leaders and rulers are subject to the ultimate authority and power of God, the living truth. Let us focus our gaze on the great God of our making, as we pour out to Him our prayers.

Lord of all, give your Church such maturity and wisdom that we may not be swayed from our purpose and calling by the trivialities or worldly pressures, but know increasingly our dependence on you in all things, and proclaim your gospel with steadfastness and joy.

You, O Lord: are the ground of our being.

Lord of all, give to all monarchs, leaders, and heads of governments graciousness and integrity, that all in power and authority may undertake their duties in a spirit

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of humility, so that the oppressed may find a voice, and the nations work together for the good of the world.

You, O Lord: are the ground of our being.

Lord of all, give to our homes and places of work and leisure your harmony and peace; give us grace to respect one another and ourselves in the way we talk and think, and in the way we behave.

You, O Lord: are the ground of our being.

Lord of all, speak your peace into the hearts of all who are agitated, anxious, or confused. Lay your hands of healing on all who are ill, and let them know your reassurance and love.

You, O Lord: are the ground of our being.

Lord of all, welcome into your Kingdom all who have kept the faith and now can lay their burdens down. May they rest in your peace forever.

You, O Lord: are the ground of our being.

Lord of all, the order and complexity of creation sings your praise, and we give voice to it now as we offer you our song of lives rededicated to the work of your Kingdom.

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

The Lord's Prayer

The Grace

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October 25, 2020

21st Sunday after Pentecost

Jesus replied "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. Matthew 22: 37

Scripture Readings:

Deuteronomy 34: 1-12

Psalms 90: 1-6, 13-17

1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8

Matthew 22: 34-46

Moses loved the Lord and the Lord blessed him. He used him for many miracles. Through Moses the law was given. Moses did what he could to please God, not man. So our love, too, must be sincere, not only in talk, but action as well. Loving the Lord and doing His will, carrying out His plan for our lives is no easy task, but oh so worth the blessings and comfort we receive from our Saviour.

Collect: Lord God our redeemer, who heard the cry of your people and sent your servant Moses to lead them out of slavery, free us from the tyranny of sin and death, and by the leading of your Spirit bring us to our promised land; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

We are to love God with our whole being, and love others as much as we love ourselves. In love and trust, let us pray to our God.

Holy God, give us the courage to tell out your truth without fear, and to work for your Kingdom with joy. Thank you for the support and love of other Christians, and the richness of our varied traditions. May we focus our attention on you with such love that all unnecessary divisions between us crumble.

You are the Lord: there is no other.

Holy God, in all our day to day living, may we reject deceit and flattery, so that our motives and behaviour are honest, and our love for one another clear as day.

You are the Lord: there is no other.

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Holy God, we pray for all law breakers and their families; for those in prison and those returning to the community. We pray for those imprisoned by guilt or shame, or trapped by physical frailty, illness or paralysis. We pray for those whose lives are tragically disrupted by war and famine, poverty and disease.

You are the Lord: there is no other.

Holy God, we remember those who, dying in faith, rejoice to see you as you are. We thank you for their example and commend them to your peace forever.

You are the Lord: there is no other.

Holy God, we give you thanks for the love poured out to us each moment of each day, and ask of you the grace to live our gratitude, and give freely of what we have freely received.

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

The Lord's Prayer

The Grace