November 01, 2020

All Saints Day

The Lord redeems His servants, no one will be condemned who takes refuge in Him.

Psalm 34: 22

Scripture Readings:

Revelations 7: 9-17 Psalm 34: 1-10, 32

1 John 3: 1-3 Matthew 5: 1-12

The Lord loves each and every one of us. He wants us all to share with Him in His eternal glory. Let us never get tired of doing God's work here on earth, and show His love to all until we meet with our Lord in the Heavenly Kingdom, where there will be much celebration, praising and rejoicing His Holy name!

Collect: Almighty God, whose chosen servant Abraham obeyed your call, rejoicing in your promise that in Him the family of the earth is blessed, give us faith like His, that in us your promises may be fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Lives that have shone with God's love on earth are filled with joy as they see their Lord face to face. Knowing our dependence on God in all things, let us pray to Him now.

Glorious God, as we celebrate the lives of those church members who have shone with the brightness of your love, we offer you ourselves and our lives in fresh commitment and conscious awareness of our need for you in this parish, and as individual Christians.

Just as I am: I come.

Powerful God, may your kingdom of love and peace be established in this world and grow. We pray for both the influential and the ignored, both the popular and the disliked, both the ambitious and the vulnerable. Teach us all your ways and your values.

Just as I am: I come.

Loving God, we call to mind our families and friends, neighbours and colleagues, thanking you for all their loving care and forgiveness, and asking your light to shine in all areas of hurt and misunderstanding.

Just as I am: I come.

Healing God, we bring to you those whose lives are darkened by pain, fear or weariness. Come to our aid, help us to bear what must be carried, and take from us all resentment and bitterness, replacing it with the abundance of peace.

Just as I am: I come.

Eternal God, we thank you for all the saints, those recognized by the Church, and those known only to a few and to you. We praise you for their example and rejoice that they live in your heaven with every tear wiped away. In your mercy may all who have died in your friendship know your lasting peace.

Just as I am: I come.

Gracious God, you can take us as we are and transform us by your life in us. Clear our lives of all that is not of you, so that we let your goodness shine through the colours of our personalities and gifts you have given to us.

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

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

November 08, 2020

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

Matthew 25: 13

Scripture Readings:

Joshua 24: 1-3a Psalm 78: 1-7

1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18

Matthew 25: 1-13

God is our constant companion and will never leave us. We must never forget to tell others of His love and mercy for all His children and why we believe. This is so because we want all our family, friends and neighbours to spend eternity with our Lord and Saviour where love is eternal and everlasting. Thanks be to God.

Collect: Eternal God, who caused all holy scriptures to be written for our learning, grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

We need to keep ourselves awake and prepared so that the day of the Lord does not come to us as darkness rather than light. In the power of the Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

Heavenly Father, anoint your Church all over the world with the oil of your Spirit, so that we burn brightly, lighting the dark world with your love and truth. Keep our Church communities from error and sin, and supply us all through word and sacrament with all that our souls require.

Waken us Lord: to understand your love.

Heavenly Father, take the false values of our world and upend them, take the oppressed and free them, take the leaders and inspire them, take the past and redeem it, the present and fill it, the future and guide us into it.

Waken us Lord: to understand your love.

Heavenly Father, as we pray for all who are ill in body, mind or spirit, surround them with your love and healing, your reassurance and peace. We pray for those who are too weak or exhausted to pray, but simply know they ache for your comfort.

Waken us Lord: to understand your love.

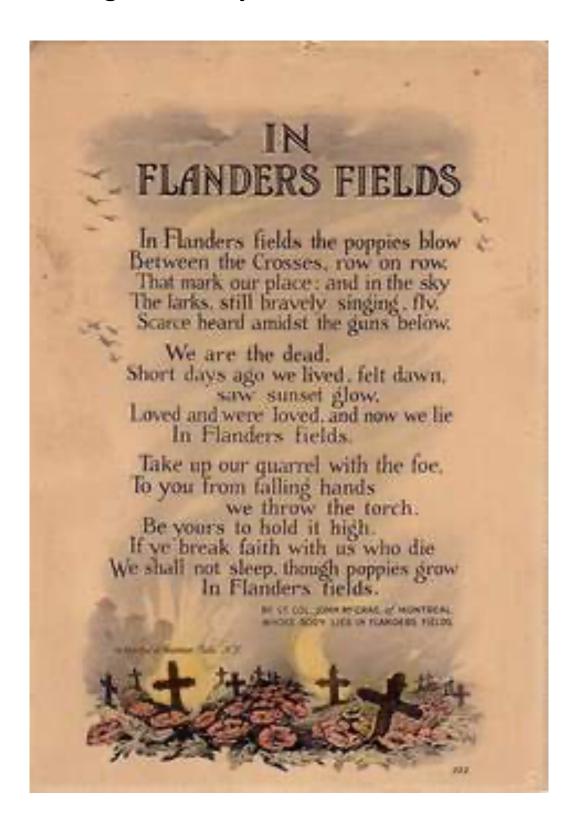
Heavenly Father, we commend to your mercy and love those who have died in your faith and friendship. May we all share in the joy of Christ's coming in glory.

Waken us Lord: to understand your love.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for all the resources for holiness you lovingly provide, and for your ongoing and unlimited provision. Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer



November 15, 2020

24th Sunday after Pentecost

For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath, but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thess. 5:9

Scripture Readings:

Judges 4: 1-7 Psalm 123 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Matthew 25: 14-30

Be open to the Lord's leading and He will guide us through all our days. We don't know how many years are allotted to us so we must live in the light and be alert. Always be ready to use our talents to bring into being the opportunities that God provides for us. Then one day God will say to us "well done thou good and faithful servant."

Collect: Almighty God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to be the light of the world. Free us from all that darkens and ensnares us, and bring us to eternal light and joy, through the power of Him who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

The day of the Lord will hold terror for the wicked and unprepared, but rejoicing for those living in God's light. Gathered as God's people, let us pray.

Holy God, if we are presuming on your mercy, alert us and shatter our complacency; if we are doubting your mercy, affirm in us the reality of your forgiveness. May we, as the Church, encourage and warn, but never condemn; acknowledge sin, but never judge.

Christ will come again: make us ready to meet Him.

Holy God, raise up prophets to speak out your truth and draw attention to whatever needs changing in our world, our expectations and assumptions, our management of resources and finances, our systems of government and our attitudes. May all peoples come to recognize your truth.

Christ will come again: make us ready to meet Him.

Holy God, may all in misery and despair turn to find you close beside them in their heartache, not condemning but loving them in their pain. May all who are locked in terror or guilt be set free, and may those whom long term illness wearies be strengthened to persevere, freed from resentment.

Christ will come again: make us ready to meet Him.

Holy God, Lord of the living and the dead, we commend to your mercy all who have died, and thank you for that eternal healing which frees us from all pain and suffering.

Christ will come again: make us ready to meet Him.

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

The Lord's Prayer

November 22, 2020

Reign of Christ Sunday

Know that the Lord is God. It is He who made us, and we are His, we are His people, the sheep of His pasture. Psalm 100: 3

Scripture Readings:

Ezekiel 34: 11-16

Psalm 100

Ephesians 1: 15-23 Matthew 25: 31-46

The Lord is our Shepherd and King. He searches for us, He loves us, He provides for us. He gives us strength and courage on dark days. He provides food and water when we are hungry and thirsty. His word enriches our lives and helps us to grow closer to Him. But most of all He has given us the gift of unconditional love, which will be ours for all eternity for He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Glory Alleluia!

Collect: Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, our Lord and King, grant that the peoples of the earth, now divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under His gentle and loving rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one, now and for ever.

In total humility, at one with the least of His people, Jesus, the Messiah, the Christ, reigns as King with full authority and honour for eternity. Let us humble ourselves in the presence of God, and pray to Him for the Church and for the world.

Loving God, in our ministry as the Church, both laity and clergy, on Sundays and weekdays, may we give glory to you and further your kingdom. Direct us to those who are searching, and give us the wisdom to know how best to draw them to your love.

We are your people: the sheep of your pasture.

Loving God, may we actively seek to do good, to stand up against injustice and work for peace. Lord, rid the world of the terrible evils that result from invoiced objections and unspoken misgivings. Give us the courage to act as true citizens of heaven.

We are your people: the sheep of your pasture.

Loving God, may the ways we manage our homes, decisions, times and money be in keeping with our calling as inheritors of the Kingdom. May your love undergird all our loving.

We are your people: the sheep of your pasture.

Loving God, search for the lost, bring back those who have strayed, bind up the injured and strengthen the weak. Help us all to share in this work of loving care.

We are your people: the sheep of your pasture.

Loving God, welcome into your kingdom all whose lives show them to be your servants, whether or not they have known you by name. Prepare us all to meet you with confidence of sins confessed and forgiven.

We are your people: the sheep of your pasture.

Loving God, you have shown us such love and humility. We offer you our thanks and praise. Merciful Father accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

November 29, 2020

First Sunday of Advent

What I say to you, I say to everyone: "Watch!" Mark: 13: 37

Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 64: 1-9

Psalm 80: 1-7, 16-18 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9

Mark 13: 24-37

We should always be mindful of our faithful Shepherd, our Father, who provides grace, mercy, love, and peace. We will lack nothing if we follow and imitate Him. Be aware not to fall into selfish acts, but always do what is good and right before the Lord. Stretch out your hand to Him and He will show you the righteous way. Increase our faith, O Lord.

Collect: Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility, that on the last day, when He shall come again in His glorious majesty to judge both the living and dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through Him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Be alert and watchful; keep yourselves ready. As we begin a new year in the life of the Church, let us pray together to the God of our making.

Holy God, just as we are we come to you, and ask for your Kingdom to come in us and in this place. Increase our faith and our love for you, so that we may become the lights in the darkness that we are called to be.

O God, keep us awake to you: and alive to your call.

Holy God, the signs in our world of hate, distrust and greed are shown to us clearly every day. May we see with your eyes the signs of hope and victory, the opportunities for loving service, for encouragement, reassurance and thanksgiving.

O God, keep us awake to you: and alive to your call.

Holy God, bless the parenting and befriending in all our relationships, and increase our love for one another. Give us the humility to accept guidance and warnings, lovingly given, and the courage to uphold one another in faith.

'O God, keep us awake to you: and alive to your call.

Holy God, we bring to you in love those who are weary with ongoing pain and weakness, those who are frail with age and all who are vulnerable. Pour your living strength into their lives, and protect them from all that is harmful.

O God, keep us awake to you: and alive to your call.

Holy God, we pray for all who have come to the end of their earthly lives, and for those whose lives feel empty without them. Give comfort to the bereaved and everlasting peace to all who rest in your love.

O God, keep us awake to you: and alive to your call.

Holy God, your faithful care has safely brought us to this moment. We thank you for your constant love, forgiveness, strength and protection. Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer