

Alongsiders' Prayers for February 2021

February 07, 2021

5th Sunday after Epiphany

Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else, to the nearby villages, so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." So He travelled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and healing. Mark 1: 38-39

Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 40: 21-31

Psalms 147: 1-12, 21

1 Corinthians 9: 16-23

Mark 1: 29-39

When you have the love of God in your heart, it changes you. You no longer feel the same. You feel the call to be Christ-like in all your actions. When you have been forgiven for your sins you look at situations differently. Ministry is love and kindness, following in the footsteps of Jesus, and continuing to do His work to the best of our ability. Praise the Lord

Collect: Merciful Lord, grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

The Good news about God is far too good to keep to ourselves. We have gathered in the presence of the one Holy God from whom all things take their being. Let us pray to Him now.

Whenever the sparkle of our vision has dulled, set us glowing once again at the very thought of you, Lord, and restore our longing to draw closer to you until our lives reflect your shining.

Who is the king of glory? It is the Lord our God.

Wherever important and far reaching decisions need to be made, wherever wrongs need righting and justice needs to be restored, breathe your wisdom and integrity, and let your kingdom come.

Who is the king of glory? It is the Lord our God.

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Wherever ongoing family conflicts need resolving, wherever communication has broken down, develop our capacity for unconditional loving and appreciation of every 'other' as another child of your creation.

Who is the king of glory? It is the Lord our God.

Wherever there is pain and suffering, whether physical, emotional, mental or spiritual, we pray for your fulsome healing, and commit ourselves to be available and ready to help.

Who is the king of glory? It is the Lord our God.

As we call to mind those who have recently died and those who will die today, we pray for each of them, that in their dying they may find the greatest healing of all as they come into your Holy presence forever.

Who is the king of glory? It is the Lord our God.

As we marvel afresh today at your majesty and humility, we thank you for the privilege of knowing you. Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

The Lord's Prayer

The Grace

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February 14, 2021

Transfiguration Sunday

*Then a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and a voice came from the cloud:
"This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to Him."*

Scripture Readings:

2 Kings 2: 1-12

Psalms 50: 1-6

2 Corinthians 4: 3-6

Mark 9: 2-9

This is our last Sunday before Lent, and we are in awe of God's great majesty and glory. He speaks and we listen and obey. He shines forth from the rising of the sun to its setting. God has given us the light of His love of His beloved Son. We are His instruments of light, love and peace in the world. Let us show forth in our actions today and every day, His love with which we are gifted.

Collect: Almighty God, on the holy mount you revealed to chosen witnesses your well-beloved Son, wonderfully transfigured: mercifully deliver us from the darkness of this world, and change us into His likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

God's glory shows. Let us pray to the God of Glory, revealed to us in His Son, Jesus. Father, lengthen and deepen our attention span as we, your people, listen to your beloved Son, so that we do not fail to hear His will for us or share His longing for the world to be saved.

Let us worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

Father, with such humility, you entered the world to save it through love's giving; increase our desire to enter into one another's suffering and hardship, to share the world's resources fairly with one another, and recognize all humanity as brothers and sisters.

Let us worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

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Father, let us not take one another for granted, but wake each morning ready to notice the Christ in each person we see and speak to. Let us reverence your hidden presence in all creation.

Let us worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

Father, in our prayer we stand alongside all who are too weak to pray or too confused. May all who are suffering sense your love and comfort. May they be given strength to persevere and peace of mind and spirit.

Let us worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

Lord, we commend to your eternal presence those who have recently died, that they may rest in peace and rise in glory.

Let us worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

Father, we thank you for providing always the encouragement and inspiration we need for the work you would have us do. Give us the grace to trust your will for us and to walk forward boldly in your company. 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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Valentine's Day

The date of February 14 was known, at one time, as St. Hugs Day. However, it became more commonly known in the Anglican community as the Feast of St. Valentine. Historically, St. Valentine was a priest near Rome in about the year 270 A.D. It was during this time that there was a war on Christianity and those who were imprisoned for practicing Christianity, were normally executed, as was the case with St. Valentine. During his life, he ministered to help the Christians to escape this persecution, and to provide them the sacraments, such as marriage, which was outlawed by the Roman Empire at that time. The story of St. Valentine says that he would "remind them [Christians] of God's love and to encourage them to remain faithful Christians,". Saint Valentine is said to have cut hearts from parchment, giving them to the soldiers and persecuted Christians, a possible origin of the widespread use of hearts on Saint Valentine's Day. In today's world, we see it more as a day of buying cards, candies and presents. But to remind all of us the origins of this martyr, who died for his faith to God, the following is a Bible verse to help us mark this day, which has its origins in Christianity.

13 *If I speak in the tongues^[a] of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast,^[b] but do not have love, I gain nothing.*

⁴ *Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.*

⁸ *Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. ¹¹ When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. ¹² For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love*

1 Corinthian 13: 1-13

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February 21, 2001

First Sunday in Lent

"The time has come," Jesus said, "the Kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"
Mark 1: 15

Scripture Readings:

Genesis 9: 8-17

Psalm 25: 1-9

1 Peter 3: 18-22

Mark 1: 9-15

In the first Sunday of Lent we are reminded of the rainbow promise of God, and how we can trust Him to show us the way.

Water can symbolize both death and life. As Jesus was being baptized in the Jordan by John, God sent a dove upon Jesus saying "this is my beloved Son." As we experience this Lent, may we be washed anew by the Spirit of the living God showing us the way, His way to eternal life.

Collect: Almighty God, whose Son fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are but did not sin, give us grace to discipline ourselves in submission to your Spirit, that as you know our weakness, so we may know your power to save; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

After His baptism Jesus is led by the Spirit into the wilderness before returning to proclaim God's Kingdom.

As we begin this season of Lent, let us move off into the desert to communicate with our God. Lord God, we come with all our muddled priorities and conflicting agendas to be made whole as the Body of Christ; to renounce evil so as to be equipped to announce the kingdom of peace.

With our God; all things are possible.

Lord, we come with the world's clamour ringing in our ears, with comfort zones beckoning us, but the pain of injustice refusing to be shut out. We come for the world's healing, and for an end to all lying and deceit.

With our God; all things are possible.

Lord God, we come with the demands of home, work, family and expectations warring in us for space and attention. We come on behalf of those too busy or

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too exhausted to pray, that our daily lives may be washed in your peace, ordered in holiness, and lit up with your joy.

With our God; all things are possible.

Lord God, we come with the needs and sorrows, pain and suffering of our brothers and sisters all over the world, who are aching physically, emotionally or spiritually. We come to ask your comfort and healing love.

With our God; all things are possible.

Lord God, we come to realign our lives in the context of your eternity, and commend to your love our own loved ones, who have passed through earthly death to the life which has no ending.

With our God; all things are possible.

Lord God, we come with thankfulness for the gift of life and for the call of holiness. Give us the grace to respond to your 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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February 28, 2021

Second Sunday in Lent

Yet he (Abraham) did not waiver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what He had promised. Romans 4: 20-21

Scripture Readings:

Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16

Psalms 22: 22-30

Romans 4: 13-25

Mark 8: 31-38

Nothing is impossible with God for He has dominion and power over us all. Believe and love the Lord with all your heart, mind and strength. Place your complete faith and trust in Him. Be right with God today and every day by the power of the Holy Spirit abiding in us all.

Collect: Almighty God, whose Son was revealed in majesty before He suffered death upon the cross, give us faith to perceive His glory, that being strengthened by His grace we may be changed into His likeness, from glory to glory; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

A commitment of faith has far-reaching implications. Let us pray to our God in faith, knowing that He understands what is best for us. Heavenly Father, give to all leaders and their advisors the courage to be honest, the will to be just, the greatness to be humble and the openness to learn. You speak what is true; and the truth can set us free.

Heavenly Father, at the door of each home place your welcome; in the rooms of each home your love; in the eyes of each person your truth; and in all our companionship your own. You speak what is true; and the truth can set us free.

Heavenly Father, give comfort and healing to those who are ill, peace to the anxious, and reassurance to the afraid. May we know your love for us through both the good and the agonizing times. You speak what is true; and the truth can set us free.

You speak what is true; and the truth can set us free.

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Heavenly Father, may the dying be prepared to meet you, and the souls of those who have died in faith live for ever in the joy of your presence.

You speak what is true; and the truth can set us free.

Heavenly Father, give us thankful hearts to bless your name in sadness and in joy, knowing that you are always there beside us. Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

The Grace

How Deep the Father's Love for Us

How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure,
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss –
The Father turns His face away,
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross,
My sin upon His shoulders;
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life –
I know that it is finished.

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I will not boast in anything,
No gifts, no power, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer;
But this I know with all my heart –
His wounds have paid my ransom.