

Alongsiders' Prayers for May 2020

May 03, 2020

4th Sunday of Easter

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord: I know my own, and my own know me.
John 10:14

Scripture Readings:

Acts 2: 42-47

Psalm 23

1 Peter 2: 19-25

John 10: 1-10

These scriptures teach us of the early believers who devoted themselves to the apostles teaching of breaking bread and prayer. They fellowshiped together, had one common goal, their love of Jesus, the Messiah. They shared with those in need and God increased their numbers to the fold. The Lord supplies all our needs. He is our Shepherd, who watches over us and provides for us. When we bear up through pain and suffering, we know God is with us. We recognize God through suffering as He suffered for us, a lamb to the slaughter. He is the shepherd of our souls. Jesus is the gate. Through Him all can enter and will be saved. He comes so we can have life and have it abundantly. Thanks be to God, the keeper of our souls.

Collect: O God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, that great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make us perfect in every good work to do your will, and work in us that which is well-pleasing in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Good shepherd of the sheep, we pray for the church of all congregations, for clergy, Rev. Wayne, Rev. Sam, and for all who minister in word and sacrament. We pray for Bishop Geoff and all bishops in their shepherding of the world church. We pray for clear guidance and direction in those issues which disturb us, asking not that you lead us in the easy way, but the way which is right and good.

The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want.

Good Shepherd of the sheep, we pray for the world we inhabit, the world we have inherited and will pass on to successive generations. Teach us to look after it carefully and wisely, to share its gifts more fairly and work together to ease its sufferings. Turn the hearts of those who are excited by evil things and encourage the timid to speak out for what is wholesome and good.

The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want.

Good Shepherd of the sheep, we pray for our places of work, whether it is inside or out in the field. We pray for our co-workers, friends, neighbours, and the members of our family.

We ask not for popularity at all costs, but the grace to do your will and be your witnesses to what it means to live lovingly, both when it is easy and also when it hurts.

The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want.

Good Shepherd of the sheep, we pray for the weak and the vulnerable, for those who must live depending on others for every need, and for those who are bullied or constantly despised. We pray for a greater reverence for one another, for a greater willingness to uphold and encourage one another; we pray for healing and wholeness.

The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want.

Good Shepherd of the sheep, we pray for those who have died. We pray for those who ache with sorrow and their dying. We commend them all into your unfailing care, which lasts throughout this life and into eternity.

The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want

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

The Lord's Prayer

The Grace

May 10, 2020

5th Sunday of Easter

I am the way, the truth, and the life says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, but by me.
John 14: 6

Scripture Readings:

Acts 7: 55-60

Psalm 31 1-5, 15-16

1 Peter 2: 2-10

John 14: 1-14

Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, asked God to not hold this sin against those who were stoning him to death because of him saying, “He saw heaven open and the Son of man standing on the right side of God.” Stephen trusted fully to commit his life and was assured that his spirit would be with God. Our time is in God’s hands. Jesus is the living stone in us, and we are His chosen people. He tells us He is the way, the truth and the life, and we know this because of the Father. The Father is in Jesus and Jesus is in the Father. Have faith and trust. As Jesus also lives in us, we can do much to bring glory to God, who is the way, the truth and the life. Thanks be to God. Amen

Collect: Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another and walk in the way of His commandments, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

As living stones, let us pray for the building up of God's church, and for the world God loves.

Living God, our life is in your hands, and we offer you all that we are, all that our past has made us, and all that we may become. Build us up by the power of your Spirit into a spiritual temple, where you are glorified day after day in all our praise and worship, and in our love for one another.

You are my strong rock: my strong rock and my shelter.

Living God, our planet, with its frenzied life on its fragile skin, is unnervingly small and vulnerable to evil. Sharpen our consciences to sense your direction and protect us from all that draws us away from you. Guide our leaders in the way of truth, and realign us all to the values which are built on you.

You are my strong rock: my strong rock and my shelter.

Living God, may the way which Jesus shows us be the way we live out our daily lives around the table, in the daylight and in the dark, in the misunderstandings, the tensions and the rush, in the eye contact, the conversations and the growing.

You are my strong rock: my strong rock and my shelter.

Living God, you can use and transform all our experiences. We lay before you now those who are travelling through a time of pain or anguish, tragedy or conflict which is hard to bear. We stand alongside them in their suffering, and offer it to your transforming, healing love.

You are my strong rock: my strong rock and my shelter.

Living God, we remember those who have died and pray for them now. Lead them out of their pain into the light of eternity, and keep us all in the way that leads us to share that everlasting life with you.

You are my strong rock: my strong rock and my shelter.

The Lord's Prayer

The Grace

May 17, 2020

6th Sunday of Easter

If you love me, you will keep my word, and my Father will love you, and we will come to you.
John 14: 23

Scripture Readings:

Acts 17: 22-31

Psalms 66: 7-18

1 Peter 2: 13-22

John 14: 15-21

Paul is telling the people of Athens that they can worship the God who made the world. He is very known to us for He lives in each one of us, not in temples. God has given evidence to all people by raising Jesus from the dead. He is the way, the truth and the life. Water symbolizes baptism that saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ. You are marked as His own for ever. He will give you the gift of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter. In this you will know Jesus lives in you for ever. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Collect: Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you riches beyond imagination. Pour into our hearts such love toward you, that we, loving you above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

The spirit of truth, given to us, enables us to discern the living risen Christ. As we gather in the company of the living God, let us pray.

Lord of life, we pray that the Church may be alive with your risen life, refreshed and revived by the breath of your spirit, purified and refined like gold and silver, so that we truly offer the possibility of your saving love to the searching world.

You are the one true God: and we worship you.

Lord of life, we pray that in all meetings and conferences where important decisions are made, hearts may be turned to honor what is just and true, compassionate and constructive. We pray that in all areas where there is corruption, deceit or distrust, consciences may be sensitised afresh to know what is right and strive towards it.

You are the one true God: and we worship you.

Lord of life, we pray for the streets and places of work we represent. May they be places where the truth of your being is proclaimed daily by the way we live and handle the everyday situations by your leading hand.

You are the one true God: and we worship you.

Lord of life, we pray for those who have died and now see you as you really are. We ask for mercy and forgiveness, and commend them to your keeping for ever.

You are the one true God: and we worship you.

Lord of life, your love for us is so great and our love for you so small. Thank you for accepting what we are able to offer, and ignite us to a blaze of love. Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Lord of life, we pray for all who feel out of their depth, all who are drowning in their pain, sorrow or guilt. Set them free, O God, and save them, support them to a place of safety and fix their feet on the solid rock of your love.

You are the one true God: and we worship you.

The Lord's Prayer

The Grace

May 24, 2020

Ascension of the Lord

Go and make disciples of all nations, says the Lord; I am with you always to the close of the age. Matthew 28: 19, 20

Scripture Reading:

Acts 1: 1-14

Psalm 47

Luke 24: 44-53

Luke tells us “the Messiah must suffer and must rise from death three days later.” Repentance and forgiveness will be preached in His name to all nations. He is also sending us today to be His witnesses and to be His beacon of light to others. As Jesus was raising His hands to bless them, He was taken up to heaven. But He left us the truth to continue to spread the good news of His love, salvation and amazing grace. Shout to God with cries of joy for He is seated on His Holy throne in heaven. He is greatly exalted, thanks be to God, alleluia. Amen.

Collect: Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that He might rule over all things as Lord. Keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and the bond of His peace, and bring the whole of creation to worship at His feet, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Having brought back our freedom with the giving of His life, Jesus enters into the full glory to which He is entitled. As we celebrate together, let us pray together.

God of love, we celebrate this festival of Jesus' entry into heaven as Saviour and Lord, we pray for unity in the Church, and reconciliation and renewed vision.

Both heaven and earth: are full of God's glory.

As we recall the shout of praise in heaven as the Lamb of God appears, we pray for all who are hailed as heroes and given great honour on earth; for all who worship anyone or anything other than the true God.

Both heaven and earth: are full of God's glory.

We pray for all farewells and homecomings among our families and in our community, and for all who have lost touch with loved ones and long for reunion.

Both heaven and earth: are full of God's glory.

We pray for those who are full of tears, and cannot imagine being happy again. We pray for the hardened and the callous, whose inner hurts have never yet been healed. We pray for wholeness, comfort and new life.

Both heaven and earth: are full of God's glory.

We commend to your eternal love those we remember who have died, and we pray for those who miss their physical presence.

Both heaven and earth: are full of God's glory.

We praise and bless you, God of making, for the way you draw us deeper into the meaning of life. Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, Christ our Saviour.

The Lord's Prayer

The Grace.

May 31, 2020

The Day of Pentecost

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful; and kindle in us the fire of your love.

Scripture Readings:

Acts 2: 1-21

Psalm 104: 25-35, 31

1 Corinthians 12: 3b-13

John 7: 37-39

On the Day of Pentecost everyone is together, and a wind comes and fills the house. Tongues of fire rested on each one of them, filling them with the Holy Spirit, and enabling them to speak in tongues. Everyone was amazed because all could understand each one's language. What a powerful God we serve. He bestows upon us many gifts of the Spirit. We are all one in the Lord, but each one of us is given a different gift. And, yes, we all have gifts of the Spirit. Jesus says "come all who are thirsty and I will give you living waters, overflowing in love." Thank you, Father, for the Holy Spirit, and the gift of new life. Amen.

Collect: Almighty and everliving God, who fulfilled the promises of Easter by sending us your Holy Spirit and opening to every race and nation the way of life eternal, keep us in the unity of your Spirit, that every tongue may tell of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

With great power the Spirit of God is poured out on the expectant disciples. As the Body of Christ, in the power of the Spirit, let us pray:

For a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the people of God all over the world, and in all worship traditions; for the readiness to be changed and made new; for the softening of the grounds of our hearts, to receive without fear.

With our whole selves we pray: Come, Holy Spirit of God.

For all the people of the earth to know you and honour your name; for the healing of the nations, and a new thirst for righteousness and purity at every level in every aspect of society; for a dissatisfaction with the pursuit of pleasure and all that distracts us from our true calling.

With our whole selves we pray: Come, Holy Spirit of God.

For the grace and power to live out our faith in the real and challenging world among those we meet and eat with, whose lives we share, without compromising that calling to be the body of Christ, living God's integrity and purity, forgiveness and love.

With our whole selves we pray: Come, Holy Spirit of God.

For those whose lives feel empty, cheated, or filled with pain, worry or guilt; for all whose hopes and dreams are in tatters; for all who are in anyway imprisoned.

With our whole selves we pray: Come, Holy Spirit of God.

For those who walk the dark journey of death, and all who have come through it into your presence; for mourners distressed by regrets or are angry with God at their loss.

With our whole selves we pray: Come, Holy Spirit of God.

For all you have in store for us, we thank you. We look forward to walking into the future of your promise, alive with your life. Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

The Grace