



Martin Bird's Prayers for Monday 24th – Sunday 30th May

Monday

Reading – Luke Chapter 9, verses 18 to 27

Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, "Who do the crowds say I am?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life." "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "God's Messiah." Jesus strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone. And he said, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life." Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self? Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. "Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God."

Lord Jesus, help us to be like Peter, and when we are asked "Who is Jesus?" let us not hesitate to say that you are the Son of God, the Messiah, the Saviour of the World and the Prince of Peace. Help us too, Lord Jesus, to truly take up our crosses daily, whatever they may be, and follow you every day of our lives. Help us to be your true disciples here on earth and lead more and more people to you. In your great name we pray, Amen

Tuesday

Reading – Luke Chapter 9, verses 28 to 36

About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendour, talking with Jesus. They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfilment at Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, "Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters - one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." (He did not know what he was saying.) While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and covered them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. A voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him." When the voice had spoken, they found that Jesus was alone. The disciples kept this to themselves and did not tell anyone at that time what they had seen.

Lord Jesus, your Father in heaven said at your transfiguration, " This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to Him". Help us today to hear these words afresh, and to always listen to you in our lives, so that we might always do your work and be your people here in earth. Help us as we pray to remember that prayer does not go just one way. Help us to spend time in silence listening for you and for your word in our lives, and help us to continue to read your words in the Bible, and act upon them. We ask this in your name, Lord Jesus, Amen

Wednesday

Reading – Psalm 136

**Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. *His love endures forever.*
Give thanks to the God of gods. *His love endures forever.***

**Give thanks to the Lord of lords: *His love endures forever.*
to him who alone does great wonders, *His love endures forever.***

**who by his understanding made the heavens, *His love endures forever.*
who spread out the earth upon the waters, *His love endures forever.***

**who made the great lights - *His love endures forever.*
the sun to govern the day, *His love endures forever.***

**the moon and stars to govern the night; *His love endures forever.*
to him who struck down the firstborn of Egypt *His love endures forever.***

**and brought Israel out from among them *His love endures forever.*
with a mighty hand and outstretched arm; *His love endures forever.***

**to him who divided the Red Sea asunder *His love endures forever.*
and brought Israel through the midst of it, *His love endures forever.***

**but swept Pharaoh and his army into the Red Sea; *His love endures forever.*
to him who led his people through the wilderness; *His love endures forever.***

**to him who struck down great kings, *His love endures forever.*
and killed mighty kings - *His love endures forever.***

**Sihon king of the Amorites *His love endures forever.*
and Og king of Bashan - *His love endures forever.***

**and gave their land as an inheritance, *His love endures forever.*
an inheritance to his servant Israel. *His love endures forever.***

**He remembered us in our low estate *His love endures forever.*
and freed us from our enemies. *His love endures forever.***

**He gives food to every creature. *His love endures forever.*
Give thanks to the God of heaven. *His love endures forever.***

Lord God, we give you thanks for all you are doing, even if it feels like you are not doing anything. Give us the faith to know that you are always working in our lives, no matter how we feel, and no matter what else is going on in our lives and in the world. Lord, we are so grateful that your love endures forever, and that nothing can separate us from your love. May we always live as loved people, singing your praise and giving you thanks. Thank you Lord God for all you have done and will do for us – help us never to forget where our help and our hope comes from. Help us to do what the psalmist says in every aspect of our lives – give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, and his love endures forever. Thank you Lord God Amen

Thursday

Reading – Psalm 33, verses 1 to 9

**Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him.
Praise the LORD with the harp; make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre.
Sing to him a new song; play skilfully, and shout for joy.
For the word of the LORD is right and true; he is faithful in all he does.
The LORD loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love.
By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth.
He gathers the waters of the sea into jars; he puts the deep into storehouses.
Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the people of the world revere him.
For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.**

Lord God, thank you for your unending faithfulness to us – may we always be faithful to you. You love righteousness and justice – may we always seek the righteous path, and always seek and insist on justice in all we do. Help us to fear you and revere you, for you are the only God; you are the one who spoke and it happened; you spoke and the world was created. Help us in our lives to stand firm on your Rock, Jesus Christ, and to be firm in our faith in Him and in you, our Heavenly Father, now and always Amen

Friday

Reading – Mark Chapter 11, verses 11 to 26

Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the temple courts. He looked around at everything, but since it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the Twelve. The next day as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry. Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to find out if it had any fruit. When he reached it, he found nothing but leaves, because it was not the season for figs. Then he said to the tree, “May no one ever eat fruit from you again.” And his disciples heard him say it. On reaching Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple courts and began driving out those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves, and would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts. And as he taught them, he said, “Is it not written: ‘My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations’? But you have made it ‘a den of robbers.’” The chief priests and the teachers of the law heard this and began looking for a way to kill him, for they feared him, because the whole crowd was amazed at his teaching. When evening came, Jesus and his disciples went out of the city. In the morning, as they went along, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots. Peter remembered and said to Jesus, “Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered!” “Have faith in God,” Jesus answered. “Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.”

Lord Jesus, help us never to forget the power of prayer in our lives. Help us to bring all things to you in prayer, knowing that, by doing so, we are doing the most powerful thing it is possible to do. Help us, as you said, to pray for the right things and to believe that we have received an answer to those prayers, knowing that if we do this, those prayers will indeed be answered, just as you promised. Amen

Saturday

Reading – Psalm 19, verses 7 to the end

The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes.

The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The decrees of the LORD are firm, and all of them are righteous.

They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb.

By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

But who can discern their own errors? Forgive my hidden faults.

Keep your servant also from wilful sins; may they not rule over me. Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression.

May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.

Lord God, in the psalm we read about your being. Your law is perfect, and your statutes are trustworthy. Your precepts are right and your commands are radiant. The fear of you is pure and your decrees are firm and righteous. If we keep your commands, we heed their warnings, and we can be sure of eternal life. Lord, we also know that we struggle to keep your commands so we ask, as the psalmist does, that you would keep us from wilful sins, so that we too can be blameless and innocent, through your enduring love. And finally we ask, Lord God, that the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts would be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, our Rock and our Redeemer. Amen

Sunday – Trinity Sunday

Reading – John Chapter 3, verses 1 to 17

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him." Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again." "How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!" Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." "How can this be?" Nicodemus asked. "You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven - the Son of Man. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, on this Trinity Sunday, help us to remember the truth of that wonderful verse, that you, Lord God, loved the world so much that you gave your one and only Son, Jesus Christ, that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life. Help us also to remember that once he left this earth to back up to heaven with you, you sent your Holy Spirit to us, so that it might lead us and teach us, just as Jesus did. May your Spirit come upon us now and lead us in your direction for our lives. Finally, help us to remember that Jesus died and was resurrected by you and that the Holy Spirit was sent by you, so too can we know that you will never leave us and will always be there for us. Thank you that, because of Jesus, we know that we have a pathway to you, so that we too can take our place in heaven, because of Jesus.

And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen