



# Martin Bird's Prayers for Monday 14<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2020

**Monday (Holy Cross Day)**

**Reading – John Chapter 3, verses 13 to 17**

**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.**

Lord God, we thank you that you do love us all so much that you were prepared to send your Son Jesus down to earth to save us. At this toughest of times may we all hear this good news afresh once more, and, in so doing, may your whole word come to know your Son and his saving grace for themselves. May we, your people, go out and so spread your love and grace that no one will be in any doubt, not only of how much your Son means to us, but how much Jesus means to each and every person in this world. May we all act in a way that shows that we are saved people, so that the world will know that they are saved too. Thank you Lord God for sending your Son for us, and thank you Jesus for being our true Saviour Amen

**Tuesday (Cyprian)**

**Reading – Luke Chapter 7, verses 11 to 17**

**Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went along with him. As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out—the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her. When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, “Don’t cry.” Then he went up and touched the bier they were carrying him on, and the bearers stood still. He said, “Young man, I say to you, get up!” The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother. They were all filled with awe and praised God. “A great prophet has appeared among us,” they said. “God has come to help his people.” This news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding country.**

Lord Jesus, just as the people of Nain praised you and knew, just by watching you work, that you were God come to earth, so we too know that you are the Son of God, come to earth to save us. As you said to Thomas, “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed” – now we ask that you would help us to be so blessed, and to have a true and deep faith in you, certain that you are the Son of God, our Saviour and the world’s Saviour. We know that all of that is true and that you are the true and living God – may the whole world now come to the same realisation, at this time when people are crying out for a Saviour and have a Jesus-shaped hole in their lives. May we, your people who have recognised you in our lives, now help those we meet and talk to, so that your saving name would be spread throughout this world, and all would know you as their one, true Saviour.

Amen

## Wednesday (Ninian)

### Reading – 1 Corinthians Chapter 12 verse 31b – Chapter 13, verse 13

**If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 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. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.**

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

**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. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. 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. 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.**

Lord Jesus, when we love, may we love like you. When we share love, may we share your love. When we feel love, may we feel the love you give. When we feel unloved, may we know your love. When others feel unloved, may we feel moved to share your love and help them feel loved once more. May we be patient and kind in our loving, not boastful or proud. May we, knowing your love as we do, be sure not to keep that love to ourselves but to spread it to all others. May your whole world come to know your love and live in your love, so that this world would truly be the loving place you created it to be. And now these things remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. Thank you Lord God for your love, thank you Lord Jesus for your ultimate gift of love on the cross, and thank you Holy Spirit for loving us so much that you came so that we would never be alone. Amen

## Thursday (Hildegarde)

### Reading – 1 Corinthians Chapter 15, verses 1 to 11

**Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. Whether, then, it is I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.**

Lord Jesus, may we, like Paul, preach your gospel – the gospel of your good news and of your death and resurrection. By this gospel we are saved – so may we, in sharing it, so save others. May your whole world know that believing in you is not believing in vain, and know your good news for themselves. May we know, as Paul knew then, that you did die, you were risen and you are alive now. Thank you Lord Jesus, our rock and our redeemer.

Amen

## Friday

### Reading – 1 Corinthians Chapter 15, verses 12 to 20

**But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.**

Lord Jesus Christ, in the words of the hymn, you have come to us, born as one of us, Mary's Son. Lead out to die at Calvary, risen from death to set us free, living Lord Jesus help us see, you are Lord. You were raised from death, our faith is whole and sure, and our hope is in you both for our lives now and for the eternal life you promise us. Help us to continually preach this message that everyone is saved because of your death and resurrection at this time when it so desperately needs to be heard. May the hope we have in you because of the sure knowledge of your resurrection, be the one true hope for the whole world now, and for ever. Amen

## Saturday (Theodore)

### Reading – Psalm 30, verses 1 to 5

**I will exalt you, LORD, for you lifted me out of the depths and did not let my enemies gloat over me. LORD my God, I called to you for help, and you healed me. You, LORD, brought me up from the realm of the dead; you spared me from going down to the pit. Sing the praises of the LORD, you his faithful people; praise his holy name. For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favour lasts a lifetime; weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.**

Lord God, at this time when many people may be upset because of the current situation, may your hope come to them so that they may know that even though they are upset now, there is rejoicing to come. You lifted the psalmist out of the depths, and through Jesus, we know that you now lift us out of the depths too. So we ask, Lord God, our Rock and our great support, pull us and your whole world out of the depths we all find ourselves in because of Covid, and bring us the other side rejoicing in you. May we be faithful to you as you are faithful to us, and may we always praise your name, no matter what is happening either in our lives or in the life of your world. Amen

## Sunday (Trinity 15)

### Reading – Matthew Chapter 6, verses 19 to the end

**“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.**

Lord Jesus, thank that you do care for us so, much. You care so much, you died to give us a pathway to our Father God, and then, on top of that, you were always so careful to remind us of how much he, our Heavenly Father, loves us too. Help your world know your love, and help us your followers to spread your love so more and more people may find it for themselves. Also, as you tell us to, help us to seek first the kingdom of our Father God and his righteousness knowing that by doing so, we do not have to worry about anything because you are providing what we need. Come Father God come and be with us now. Amen.