



Martin Bird's Prayers for Monday 8th to Sunday 14th March 2021

Monday (Edward King)

Reading – Hebrews Chapter 14, verses 14 to the end

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are - yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Lord Jesus, as we continue to face such a tough situation in the world at the moment, help us to hold firmly to our faith in you. Help us to approach God's throne, knowing that, because of you, Jesus our Messiah, we can approach it with confidence, knowing that we will receive mercy and we will find grace to help us in this time of great need. Thank you Lord Jesus for dying for us and for rising again, so we know that this is true.

Amen

Tuesday

Reading – Psalm 25, verses 1 to 10

In you, LORD my God, I put my trust. I trust in you; do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me. No one who hopes in you will ever be put to shame, but shame will come on those who are treacherous without cause. Show me your ways, LORD, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Saviour, and my hope is in you all day long. Remember, LORD, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you, LORD, are good. Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways. He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way. All the ways of the LORD are loving and faithful toward those who keep the demands of his covenant.

Lord God, help us, like the psalmist, to truly put our trust in you at this difficult time for your world. We put our hope in you for the future, knowing that by doing so we will not be put to shame. Lord, we ask that you would teach us your truths and guides us in the right direction on the right paths so that we may always be with you, our loving and faithful Father in heaven.

Amen

Wednesday

Reading – John Chapter 8, verses 12 to 30

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." The Pharisees challenged him, "Here you are, appearing as your own witness; your testimony is not valid." Jesus answered, "Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid, for I know where I came from and where I am going. But you have no idea where I come from or where I am going. You judge by human standards; I pass judgment on no one. But if I do judge, my decisions are true, because I am not alone. I stand with the Father, who sent me. In your own Law it is written that the testimony of two witnesses is true. I am one who testifies for myself; my other witness is the Father, who sent me." Then they asked him, "Where is your father?" "You do not know me or my Father," Jesus replied. "If you knew me, you would know my Father also." He spoke these words while teaching in the temple courts near the place where the offerings were put. Yet no one seized him, because his hour had not yet come. Once more Jesus said to them, "I am going away, and you will look for me, and you will die in your sin. Where I go, you cannot come." This made the Jews ask, "Will he kill himself? Is that why he says, 'Where I go, you cannot come'?" But he continued "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am he, you will indeed die in your sins." "Who are you?" they asked. "Just what I have been telling you from the beginning," Jesus replied. "I have much to say in judgment of you. But he who sent me is trustworthy, and what I have heard from him I tell the world." They did not understand that he was telling them about his Father. So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me. The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him." Even as he spoke, many believed in him.

Lord Jesus, thank you so much that you are the light of the world. Come, shine upon us all at this time when the world seems so dark, and things seem so difficult to comprehend. May your light so light up the world that nothing can darken it and all would know your loving presence in their lives. Help us to truly follow you in our lives, and know that, no matter how things seem, we will never walk in darkness because your light guides us. Help us to shine your light out into a world that badly needs it, and help us through you to truly change the world for the better. Amen

Thursday

Reading – Psalm 117

Praise the LORD, all you nations; extol him, all you peoples. For great is his love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD.

Lord God, we do praise you. But we ask, Lord God, that all nations in the world would come to praise you, and to do your will. May all nations of the world truly come together in your name to help get rid of this virus from the whole world, rather than just concentrating on their own countries. May the richer countries make sure the poorer countries get the vaccinations they need, just as we have the vaccinations we need. Lord God, thank you that your love towards us is so great – so great that we cannot imagine just how great it is. May more and more people come to know your love for themselves at this tough time for so many. Thank you that your faithfulness endures forever – may our faith in you endure in the same way, for you are our Rock, our Redeemer, our Protector and the One True God. Amen

Friday

Reading – Mark Chapter 12, verses 28 to 34

One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?” “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.” “Well said, teacher,” the man replied. “You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. ³³To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.” When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions.

Jesus, our Saviour, help us to remember and to act on the two most important commandments. Help us to love the Lord our God with all our hearts, souls, minds and strength at this time when it would be so easy for this to slip. Help us to love our neighbours as ourselves at this time when it would be so easy to be concentrating on just ourselves. In so doing, help us hear what you said to the teacher of the law – that we are not far from the kingdom of God. Thank you Lord Jesus, that we can know for sure that you are always there for us, to teach us and to guide us. Teach us and guide us now through this toughest of times for your world. We pray this in your name, Jesus Christ our crucified and risen Saviour, Amen

Saturday

Reading – Psalm 31

In you, LORD, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness. Turn your ear to me, come quickly to my rescue; be my rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me. Since you are my rock and my fortress, for the sake of your name lead and guide me. Keep me free from the trap that is set for me, for you are my refuge. Into your hands I commit my spirit; deliver me, LORD, my faithful God. I hate those who cling to worthless idols; as for me, I trust in the LORD. I will be glad and rejoice in your love, for you saw my affliction and knew the anguish of my soul. You have not given me into the hands of the enemy but have set my feet in a spacious place. Be merciful to me, LORD, for I am in distress; my eyes grow weak with sorrow, my soul and body with grief. My life is consumed by anguish and my years by groaning; my strength fails because of my affliction, and my bones grow weak. Because of all my enemies, I am the utter contempt of my neighbours and an object of dread to my closest friends - those who see me on the street flee from me. I am forgotten as though I were dead; I have become like broken pottery. For I hear many whispering, "Terror on every side!" They conspire against me and plot to take my life. But I trust in you, LORD; I say, "You are my God." My times are in your hands; deliver me from the hands of my enemies, from those who pursue me. Let your face shine on your servant; save me in your unfailing love. Let me not be put to shame, LORD, for I have cried out to you; but let the wicked be put to shame and be silent in the realm of the dead. Let their lying lips be silenced, for with pride and contempt they speak arrogantly against the righteous. How great is your goodness which you have stored up for those who fear you, that you bestow in the sight of all, on those who take refuge in you. In the shelter of your presence you hide them from all human intrigues; you keep them safe in your dwelling from accusing tongues. Praise be to the LORD, for he showed me the wonders of his love when I was in a city under siege. In my alarm I said, "I am cut off from your sight!" Yet you heard my cry for mercy when I called to you for help. Love the LORD, all his faithful people! The LORD preserves those who are true to him, but the proud he pays back in full. Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the LORD.

Lord God, we do truly take refuge in you as there is no where else we would rather be. Lord God, you are our strong Rock of Refuge, just as you were for the Psalmist. Help us to remember that at this time when earthly refuges are being threatened by this virus. Help us to remember that no matter what else is happening, your refuge will always be there for us. Thank you so much for your faithfulness to those who believe in you, follow you and live for you. Help us to be faithful to you too, despite what is going on. Lord, preserve us who are true to you, and help our hope in you to never waver. Help us to be strong and take heart as we hope in you as we know that hope will never fail. Be with us, Lord God, bless us and keep us always in your sight, now and always,

Amen

Sunday – Mothering Sunday

Reading – John Chapter 19, verses 25 to 27

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

On this Mothering Sunday, we read of how you, Jesus our Messiah, thought of your mother even when you were hanging on the cross. You made sure she was looked after her, and showed how much you loved her in the process. We pray today for all mothers, both those who are still with us, and those who have gone to be with their heavenly father. We pray for all those who have lost their mothers and still really miss them and grieve for them. We pray for all who have lost a mother to covid over the last year. Be with all for whom this day is a difficult one, and help them to know you as both their heavenly Father and Heavenly Mother. And help all of us whose mothers are still with us to treat them with as much love as you treated yours, so that they would know how much we love them. In your name,

Amen