



Martin Bird's Prayers for Monday 8th – Sunday 14th November 2021

Monday (Saints & Martyrs of England)

Reading – Matthew Chapter 17, verses 18 to 23

As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

Jesus prays for all believers

“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one - I in them and you in me - so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

Lord Jesus, we believe in you because of your word and the writings of your disciples. We believe that God sent you to earth to save us from our sins. Help us to keep that belief, and, as we do so, help bring more people to a belief in you. May this world, a world that seems separated and against each other, be brought to complete unity – bring your kingdom down here on earth so that this world can truly become the loving and caring place your Father created it to be. In your name we pray, Amen

Tuesday (Margery Kempe)

Reading – Matthew Chapter 5, verses 13 to 20

You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Lord Jesus, help us to truly be cities on hills, there for all to see. We want our faith in you to be obvious to all, so that we can help more people come to you. Help us, when we are tempted to hide our light, the light only you can give us, to take the bowl away and let it shine. Jesus, you are the light of the world – shine out of us into the world – a world that desperately needs it. Amen

Wednesday (Leo the Great)

Reading – Psalm 23

**The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
he refreshes my soul.
He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD
forever.**

Lord God, with you in our lives we lack nothing. You give us rest and you refresh our souls. By following you, through your Son Jesus, we need not fear, because you are with us. You are our comfort and our Shepherd, and you never leave us. Help us to be strong in our faith and know that your goodness and love will follow us always. May we dwell in your house forever. Amen

Thursday (Martin)

Reading – Psalm 27

The LORD is my light and my salvation -whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life - of whom shall I be afraid?

When the wicked advance against me to devour me it is my enemies and my foes who will stumble and fall.

Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then I will be confident.

One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.

For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock.

Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me; at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing and make music to the LORD.

Hear my voice when I call, LORD; be merciful to me and answer me.

My heart says of you, "Seek his face!" Your face, LORD, I will seek. Do not hide your face from me, do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my helper. Do not reject me or forsake me, God my Saviour.

Though my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will receive me.

Teach me your way, LORD; lead me in a straight path because of my oppressors.

Do not turn me over to the desire of my foes, for false witnesses rise up against me, spouting malicious accusations.

I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.

Lord God, thank you that you are all we need in our lives. You are our light and our salvation, and we can always depend on you. Help us on our journeys with you to always stay on the right path – the path of righteousness and love which will lead to you. Amen

Friday

Reading – 2 John 4 to 9

Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father's Son, will be with us in truth and love.

It has given me great joy to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as the Father commanded us. And now, dear lady, I am not writing you a new command but one we have had from the beginning. I ask that we love one another. And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.

I say this because many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist. Watch out that you do not lose what we have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully. Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.

Lord Jesus, help us to do as John says and walk with love in our lives. Help us to follow the two most important commandments as told to us by you – to love the Lord our God with all our hearts, minds and souls, and to love our neighbours as ourselves. May we always be obedient to you and to God's commands for our lives. And may grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from you, Jesus, be with us in truth and love Amen

Saturday (Charles Simeon)

Reading – Reading – Isaiah Chapter 9, verse 2 and verses 6 and 7

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.

The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

Lord God, we know that Jesus was the plan – this reading from Isaiah proves it. May the governments of the world truly be on his shoulders, and work to his plan, your plan. Thank you that Lord Jesus is the wonderful counsellor, the everlasting father and the prince of peace. May the peace of Christ now be upon this world where it is so needed, and may all come to know Jesus – the plan and the Saviour of the World – for themselves. Amen

Sunday – Remembrance Sunday

Matthew Chapter 13, verses 31 to 35

He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.”

He told them still another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough.”

Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable. So was fulfilled what was spoken through the prophet:

“I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter things hidden since the creation of the world.”

Lord God, on this Remembrance Day, we remember that the kingdom of Heaven is near.

We remember that Jesus came to earth to save us so that we could come into your kingdom ourselves. We remember that we can know you because of what Jesus did for us. And, Lord God, let us not forget that this day is one when we remember all those who have died in all wars to give us peace. Let us remember before God and commend to his sure keeping those who have died for their country in war; those whom we knew, and whose memory we treasure and all who have lived and died in the service of mankind.

Hear our prayers and thanksgivings for all who we remember this day. Fill in them the purpose of thy love; and bring us all, with them, to thine eternal joy. Through Jesus Christ
our Lord, Amen

They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn

At the going down of the sun and in the morning

We will remember them.