



# **Martin Bird's Prayers for Monday 14<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June**

**Monday**

**Reading – Psalm 47**

**Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy.**

**For the LORD Most High is awesome, the great King over all the earth.**

**He subdued nations under us, peoples under our feet.**

**He chose our inheritance for us, the pride of Jacob, whom he loved.**

**God has ascended amid shouts of joy, the LORD amid the sounding of trumpets.**

**Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.**

**For God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a psalm of praise.**

**God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne.**

**The nobles of the nations assemble as the people of the God of Abraham,**

**for the kings of the earth belong to God; he is greatly exalted.**

Lord God, let us never forget that no matter what is happening in the world right now, you are still in control and you do reign over us all. You are the King of all the earth and we know that we couldn't be in safer hands.

Help us to praise you always, not just when things are going well, but in the dark times too. You are the Lord Most High, King of the all the Earth and everything on earth belongs to you.

And, as well as all that, we know that you also care passionately about us and, no matter how insignificant we feel, we know that we are all truly significant to you and that you love us more than we can possibly imagine.

Thank you Lord that you reign over us – may we now bring you the praises that are truly yours.

Amen

## **Tuesday**

### **Reading – Luke Chapter 13, verses 10 to 21**

**On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues, and a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, “Woman, you are set free from your infirmity.” Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God.**

**Indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, the synagogue leader said to the people, “There are six days for work. So come and be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath.”**

**The Lord answered him, “You hypocrites! Doesn’t each of you on the Sabbath untie your ox or donkey from the stall and lead it out to give it water? Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?”**

**When he said this, all his opponents were humiliated, but the people were delighted with all the wonderful things he was doing.**

**Then Jesus asked, “What is the kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it to? It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds perched in its branches.”**

**Again he asked, “What shall I compare the kingdom of God to? It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough.”**

Lord Jesus, just as you did, help us to do the right thing, whatever other people might say or think. Help us to be your people on earth and show others how to live by how we live for you. May our faith be like the mustard seed, and, no matter how small we might think it is, may our faith do big things for you. And may your kingdom be truly mixed through all things and all people on this your planet, so no one can be in any doubt of who you are and what you have done for us. Amen

## **Wednesday**

### **Reading – Romans Chapter 10, verses 1 to 10**

**Brothers and sisters, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. Since they did not know the righteousness of God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God’s righteousness. Christ is the culmination of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.**

**Moses writes this about the righteousness that is by the law: “The person who does these things will live by them.” But the righteousness that is by faith says: “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) “or ‘Who will descend into the deep?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? “The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,” that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.**

Lord God, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ and we thank you that, because of him, we can claim righteousness for ourselves because we do believe. May we all truly believe in our hearts that you, Father God, did raise your Son Jesus from the dead, and through that belief, may we too be saved. And may we, with every chance we get, profess our faith and declare with our mouths that Jesus is Lord! Amen

**Thursday**

**Reading – Psalm 111**

**Praise the LORD. I will extol the LORD with all my heart in the council of the upright and in the assembly.**

**Great are the works of the LORD; they are pondered by all who delight in them.**

**Glorious and majestic are his deeds, and his righteousness endures forever.**

**He has caused his wonders to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and compassionate.**

**He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever.**

**He has shown his people the power of his works, giving them the lands of other nations.**

**The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy.**

**They are established for ever and ever, enacted in faithfulness and uprightness.**

**He provided redemption for his people; he ordained his covenant forever - holy and awesome is his name.**

**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise.**

Lord God, when we think of all that you have done and all that you have created, we can only stand in awe and wonder. As the psalmist says, your deeds are glorious and majestic, and your works are great. You have shown all of us the power of your works and we can but ponder anew on all you have done for us. Lord God, you don't stop there either. Thank you that you are faithful and just, upright and gracious, compassionate and awesome. There can never be enough words to describe just how amazing you are, but this psalm gives us some to try to understand your very nature. Now we pray, Lord God, that we would come to you in fear and in love, so that we can have your wisdom in our lives and so we can follow you and do your work, bringing more and more people to you.

Amen

**Friday**

**Reading – Matthew Chapter 6, verses 19 to 24**

**“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

**“The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!**

**“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.**

Lord Jesus, may we only live to serve one master – we come to you and serve you with all that we have and all that we are. Help us to do what you want us to do with everything we are lucky enough to have – possessions, money and love – and not hold on to any of these just for ourselves. May our treasure be solely stored with you and not here on earth, and may our eyes be healthy and our faith in you be strong, no matter what we are going through at the moment. We love you Lord Jesus – now help us to live out that love in our lives. In your great and glorious name we pray, Amen

**Saturday**

**Reading – Matthew 6, verses 25 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, we know that you tell us not to worry, and that is especially important at a time when so many are suffering from anxiety due to what is happening either in the whole world, or in their little part of it. Help us all to take on board the message of today's reading, that when we see how much our heavenly Father cares about the animals, we can know that he cares for us so much more, and that God is always there for us all and always provides. Help us to concentrate on the day we are in rather than worrying about what might be coming and so be able to focus on you all the more. Help us in our anxiety Lord, so we can truly get to the place where we hear your words, “Do not worry.....” and know that we won't, because you are our Lord and our protector. Amen.

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### **Sunday**

#### **Reading – Mark Chapter 4, verses 35 to 41**

**That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, “Let us go over to the other side.” Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, “Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?” He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Quiet! Be still!” Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. He said to his disciples, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?” They were terrified and asked each other, “Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!”**

Lord Jesus, in this reading in Mark, we see just how powerful you are – even the wind and waves obey you. Help us to have a faith that knows that your power will be, and is being seen across this world, and a faith that knows that, in the end, every knee will bow, and every tongue will confess that you are Lord. You are so powerful, and yet you took on the ultimate weakness and died for us on the cross. Help us too to use our weaknesses to bring more people to you and help all people to turn your world upside down once more and see weakness as the ultimate power, just as you showed on the cross. Amen

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