

SMALL PRAYER GROUPS  
Prayer Gathering for September 19

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

OPENING PRAYER

**God of all creation,  
You design all of your works and all of your creatures with divine purpose  
and give us everything we need to live out our purpose fully.  
Help us to align our lives with your plan for us  
and light up the path you wish for us to walk.  
We ask this in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ, our Lord. AMEN.**

READING

MOMENT FOR SILENCE

GOSPEL PASSAGE

SHARING QUESTIONS

*“The Son of Man is to be handed over and they will kill him”*  
**An unavoidable part of Jesus’ path as the Messiah was to be handed over and killed.  
What is the hardest unavoidable part of your life path?**

*“Let us see whether his words be true; let us find out what will happen to him... Let us condemn him to a shameful death; for according to his own words, God will take care of him.”*  
**Many people during Jesus’ lifetime were threatened by him and assumed he was a phony or a hypocrite. Many people today have the same assumptions about his followers and about those who regularly attend church.  
When has your authenticity been tested? Did you pass? If so, how?**

POSTED RECENTLY

People may spend their whole lives climbing the ladder  
of success only to find, once they reach the top, that  
the ladder is leaning against the wrong wall.

Thomas Merton

DISCUSSION

*“If anyone wishes to be first, he [or she] shall be the last of all and the servant of all.”*  
**As Americans, we are often told to put ourselves and our family first.  
Many sports fans feel that “winning is everything.” “The customer is always right.”  
The examples of the values of the world being at odds what Jesus teaches are many.  
What practical things do you do to put yourself “last”?  
How do you see yourself being called to serve instead of to be served?**

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

That we all may come to see clearly God's purpose for our life and be willing to live it;  
we pray... **Lord, Hear Our Prayer.**

That our leaders and all who hold power will realize that power was given to them in order to  
serve, not to be served; we pray... **Lord, Hear Our Prayer.**

That the people of Afghanistan may know peace and find shelter under God's wings;  
we pray... **Lord, Hear Our Prayer.**

That we may share our abundance with the three billion people in the world living on \$5 a day or less;  
we pray... **Lord, Hear Our Prayer.**

That we may demonstrate love and humility when we talk about heated issues with those who  
see things differently; we pray... **Lord, Hear Our Prayer.**

That the sick may be tended and comforted... the lonely connected with... the depressed find  
treatment; we pray... **Lord, Hear Our Prayer.**

That the dangers of Covid may be overcome, and that we will all do our part to keep the  
vulnerable safe and reduce others' distress; we pray... **Lord, Hear Our Prayer.**

For our beloved dead... .. and for everyone grieving a loss... ..  
we pray... **Lord, Hear Our Prayer.**

For the needs that are so tender, we share them alone with God in our silence together... ..  
we pray... **Lord, Hear Our Prayer.**

OUR FATHER

[OPTIONAL] PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION (St. Alphonsus Ligouri)

**My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament.  
I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul.  
Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace You as if You were already here, and unite myself wholly to You.  
Never permit me to be separated from You. AMEN.**

CLOSING PRAYER

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. AMEN.**

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

## READING 1

A reading from the book of Wisdom

The wicked say:

*“Let us beset the just one, because he is obnoxious to us;  
he sets himself against our doings,  
reproaches us for transgressions of the law  
and charges us with violations of our training.*

*Let us see whether his words be true;  
let us find out what will happen to him.*

*For if the just one be the son of God, God will defend him  
and deliver him from the hand of his foes.  
With revilement and torture  
let us put the just one to the test  
that we may have proof of his gentleness  
and try his patience.*

*Let us condemn him to a shameful death;  
for according to his own words,  
God will take care of him.”*

The Word of the Lord

*Thanks be to God*

## READING 2

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus and his disciples began a journey through Galilee,  
but he did not wish anyone to know about it.

He was teaching his disciples and telling them,  
*“The Son of Man is to be handed over  
and they will kill him,  
and three days after his death the Son of Man will rise.”*

But they did not understand the saying,  
and they were afraid to question him.

They came to Capernaum and, once inside the house,  
he began to ask them,  
*“What were you arguing about on the way?”*

But they remained silent.  
They had been discussing among themselves on the way  
who was the greatest.

Then he sat down, called the Twelve, and said to them,  
*“If anyone wishes to be first,  
he shall be the last of all and the servant of all.”*

Taking a child, he placed it in the their midst,  
and putting his arms around it, he said to them,  
*“Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me;  
and whoever receives me,  
receives not me but the One who sent me.”*

The Gospel of the Lord

*Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ*

*Mark, chapter 9*