

SMALL PRAYER GROUPS  
Prayer Gathering for January 9

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

OPENING PRAYER

**God of past, present and future,  
in the fullness of time, you sent your only begotten Son to lead us to you;  
to find our inspiration in his words and deeds... and seek the approval of you alone.  
Be with us as we try to live what he taught us  
in the midst of confusing times in a troubled world.  
We ask this in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ, our Lord. AMEN.**

READING

MOMENT FOR SILENCE

GOSPEL PASSAGE

SHARING QUESTIONS

*“To bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness.”*

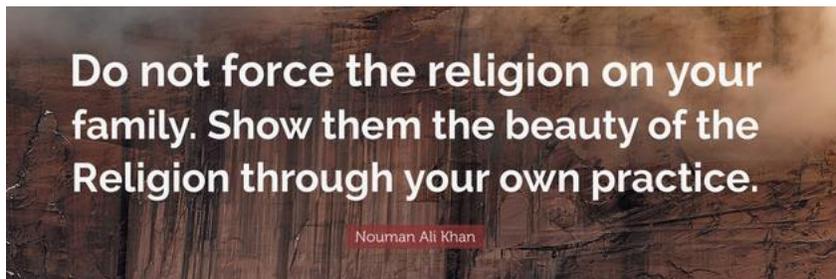
**“Dungeon” is a strong word that describes the feeling of being in darkness.**

**Looking back, what has broken you out of the darkest episodes of your life?**

*“He shall bring forth justice to the nations... not crying out, not shouting...not making his voice heard in the street. ...He shall not break... and he shall not quench...”*

**In our culture, those who want to make their mark on things go about it by shouting... making their voices heard... getting their opinions out there... exerting force. Jesus did the exact opposite. How did that affect the impact his life has had on the world? How did that affect the impact his life has had on you?**

POSTED RECENTLY



DISCUSSION

*“One mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”*

**The description of Jesus that John the Baptist gave made him sound like a powerful force of nature. When people then saw Jesus in person, did they see that? What do you imagine stood out about Jesus when someone met him?**

**Many were unable to see Jesus as anything but a disappointment. Why?**

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

That the Church may always be looking for ways to enter the lives of people who are lost and in pain and bring them the love of Jesus; we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That our leaders will do their part to end the divisions that tear at the fabric of our society; we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That all who lack proper housing will be tended by God, and receive support and care from all of us who follow God's Son; we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That all who work in health care, education and in small businesses may find the courage and energy needed to persevere through this pandemic, we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That the sick may be healed, the grieving may be comforted, and the dead welcomed into Heaven, we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all the prayers we hold in silence...                      ...                      ...                      ...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 the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the LORD:

*Here is my servant whom I uphold,  
my chosen one with whom I am pleased,  
upon whom I have put my spirit;*

*he shall bring forth justice to the nations,  
not crying out, not shouting,  
not making his voice heard in the street.  
a bruised reed he shall not break,  
and a smoldering wick he shall not quench,  
until he establishes justice on the earth;  
the coastlands will wait for his teaching.*

*I, the LORD, have called you for the victory of justice,  
I have grasped you by the hand;  
I formed you,  
and set you as a covenant of the people,  
a light for the nations,*

*to open the eyes of the blind,*

*to bring out prisoners from confinement,*

*and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness.*

The Word of the Lord

*Thanks be to God*

## READING 2

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

The people were filled with expectation,  
and all were asking in their hearts  
whether John might be the Christ.

John answered them all, saying,

*“I am baptizing you with water,  
but one mightier than I is coming.  
I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals.  
He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”*

After all the people had been baptized  
and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying,

heaven was opened  
and the Holy Spirit descended upon him  
in bodily form like a dove.

And a voice came from heaven,

*“You are my beloved Son;  
with you I am well pleased.”*

The Gospel of the Lord

*Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ*