

SMALL PRAYER GROUPS
Prayer Gathering for March 13

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

OPENING PRAYER

**Creator of the Earth, and of all who dwell upon it,
we tend to forget that our lives are short,
and that “our” land, in fact, belongs to you.
Remind us, Lord, of your children yet to be born, centuries in the future,
and give us the humility to hand it on better than we found it.
We ask this in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ, our Lord. AMEN.**

READING

MOMENT FOR SILENCE

GOSPEL PASSAGE

SHARING QUESTIONS

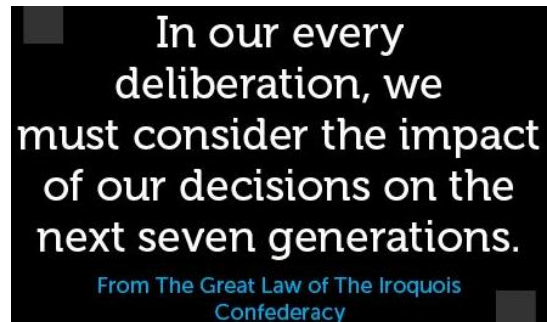
“The LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: “To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the Great River, the Euphrates.”

The Palestinians (who are Muslim) and the Israelis (who are Jewish) are both descendants of Abraham (Abram). Both peoples feel that the land they have been disputing over was given to them by God and cannot be ceded to the other without offending God. After encountering this Scripture, how do you feel about that? What would your proposed solution be?

“Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can. Just so,” he added, “shall your descendants be.”

What is your relationship with the generations that will be born after your die? What are your hopes for them? What do you feel is your responsibility to them?

POSTED RECENTLY



DISCUSSION

“Peter said to Jesus: ‘Master, it is good that we are here; let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.’”

Abraham was bestowed the Holy Land by God. Peter wanted to consecrate Mount Tabor after seeing Jesus transfigured there. What land is sacred to you? How do you demonstrate your devotion to that land?

LITANY

When I think of only one place in the world as “the Holy Land,” remind me, God...

All land is yours... all land is holy.

When I want to provide for today’s needs and let tomorrow worry about itself;
remind me, God...

All land is yours... all land is holy.

When I tell myself that my choices don’t make a difference; remind me, God...

All land is yours... all land is holy.

When I feel enraged at the people coming into our land without an invitation; remind me, God...

All land is yours... all land is holy.

When I could drop this on the ground because it doesn’t really matter; remind me, God...

All land is yours... all land is holy.

When the recycle bin is out of arm’s reach... when I just want to get rid of this without thinking;
remind me, God...

All land is yours... all land is holy.

When reducing my consumption feels pointless when so many others are not; remind me, God...

All land is yours... all land is holy.

When I harbor a resentment over an inheritance or estate that was not handled justly;
remind me, God...

All land is yours... all land is holy.

When I forget that, from Space, the world has no borders... remind me, God...

All land is yours... all land is holy.

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 Genesis:

The Lord God took Abram outside and said,
*“Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can.
Just so,”* he added, *“shall your descendants be.”*

Abram put his faith in the LORD,
who credited it to him as an act of righteousness.

He then said to him,
*“I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans
to give you this land as a possession.”*

“O Lord GOD,” he asked,
“how am I to know that I shall possess it?”

He answered him,
*“Bring me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old she-goat,
a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.”*

Abram brought him all these, split them in two,
and placed each half opposite the other;
but the birds he did not cut up.
Birds of prey swooped down on the carcasses,
but Abram stayed with them.

As the sun was about to set, a trance fell upon Abram,
and a deep, terrifying darkness enveloped him.
When the sun had set and it was dark,
there appeared a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch,
which passed between those pieces.

It was on that occasion that the LORD made a covenant with Abram,
saying: *“To your descendants I give this land,
from the Wadi of Egypt to the Great River, the Euphrates.”*

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

READING 2

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus took Peter, John, and James
and went up the mountain to pray.

While he was praying his face changed in appearance
and his clothing became dazzling white.

And behold, two men were conversing with him,
Moses and Elijah,
who appeared in glory and spoke of his exodus
that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem.

Peter and his companions had been overcome by sleep,
but becoming fully awake,
they saw his glory and the two men standing with him.

As they were about to part from him, Peter said to Jesus,
*“Master, it is good that we are here;
let us make three tents,
one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”*
But he did not know what he was saying.

While he was still speaking,
a cloud came and cast a shadow over them,
and they became frightened when they entered the cloud.

Then from the cloud came a voice that said,
“This is my chosen Son; listen to him.”

After the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone.
They fell silent and did not at that time tell anyone what they had seen.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ

Luke, chapter 9