

SMALL PRAYER GROUPS  
Prayer Gathering for August 7

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

OPENING PRAYER

**God of All Ages...**

**you entered our world at the perfect time  
and made a home among us as our teacher and savior.**

**Help us to cherish the memory of your love... to live it each day of our lives...  
and to ready ourselves for your return in glory.**

**We ask this in the power of you Holy Spirit, through Christ, our Lord. AMEN.**

READING

MOMENT FOR SILENCE

GOSPEL PASSAGE

SHARING QUESTIONS

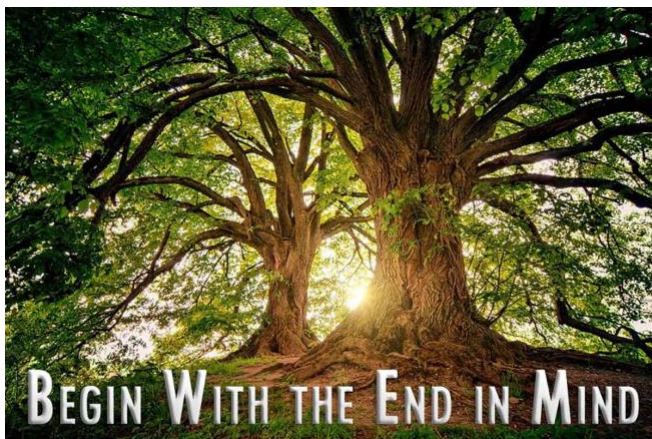
*“The night of the Passover was known beforehand to our fathers, that, with sure knowledge of the oaths in which they put their faith, they might have courage.”*

**When Moses told the Hebrews about God’s plan for Passover, they certainly couldn’t have pictured what it would be like. But that promise – vague as it was – gave them courage to stay faithful. What does this remind you of from your life?**

*“Be like servants who await their master’s return from a wedding, ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks... Blessed are those servants.”*

**How prepared are you to meet God? What part of your life might you label as “unfinished business?” What do you feel you are being called to do to prepare?**

POSTED RECENTLY



DISCUSSION

*“You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.”*  
**How do you take this statement? Does it strike you as scary? Hopeful? Exciting? Threatening? Something else?**

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

That the Church will proclaim Christ's return in glory as a cause for joy and a reason for preparation; we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That all of us will grow in our trust in God's promises; we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That our politicians may unite all of us in a love of equality and a quest for justice; we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That we may grow in the virtue of patience and see setbacks as opportunities for practice; we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That the those who have been hurt by others will find the strength to let go and feel the peace of forgiveness; we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That the sorrowful... the anxious... the depressed... and the isolated may find peace and companionship; we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the sick... for those in pain... for those beset with the challenges of old age... we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For our beloved dead... ..and for everyone who mourns... ..we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the needs we share with God 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 Wisdom:

The night of the passover  
was known beforehand to our fathers,  
that, with sure knowledge of the oaths  
in which they put their faith,  
they might have courage.

Your people awaited the salvation of the just  
and the destruction of their foes.

For when you punished our adversaries,  
in this you glorified us whom you had summoned.

For in secret  
the holy children of the good were offering sacrifice  
and putting into effect with one accord the divine institution.

The Word of the Lord

*Thanks be to God*

## READING 2

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus said to his disciples:

*“Gird your loins and light your lamps  
and be like servants  
who await their master’s return from a wedding,  
ready to open immediately  
when he comes and knocks.*

*Blessed are those servants  
whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival.*

*Amen, I say to you, he will gird himself,  
have the servants recline at table,  
and proceed to wait on them.*

*And should he come in the second or third watch  
and find them prepared in this way,  
blessed are those servants.*

*Be sure of this:  
if the master of the house had known the hour  
when the thief was coming,  
he would not have let his house be broken into.*

*You also must be prepared,  
for at an hour you do not expect,  
the Son of Man will come.”*

The Gospel of the Lord

*Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ*

*Luke, chapter 12*