

Prayer Gathering for the 15th Week of Ordinary Time

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

OPENING PRAYER

**God, your Word created the world and it governs all things in harmony.
That same Word became a human being and lived among us.
Make us receptive to the seed of your word as it falls on each of us and takes root.
May we bear fruit to bring to your harvest banquet in heaven.
We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. AMEN.**

READING

MOMENT FOR SILENCE

GOSPEL PASSAGE

SHARING QUESTIONS

“My word shall not return to me void, but shall do my will,”
**Of all the passages or the stories from the Scriptures you can think of,
which one has been most significant in your life? Why?**

“Some seed fell on the path... some on rocky ground... among thorns... on rich soil...”
**Which type of ground is the kind you most have to deal with in your “plot” (thorny,
pounded, rocky, etc.)? When in your life have you gotten to work with “rich soil”?
What kind of ground are you working with right now?**

POSTED RECENTLY



DISCUSSION

What is the most strenuous “work” you are currently doing in the garden of your life?
How does your current prayer practice help you tend your garden?

LITANY

When it's time to let go of the past and make room for something new...

Prepare Us, O God.

When you see that we are ready for the next stage of living...

Seed Us, O God.

When our roots are shooting and our thirst is alive...

Water Us, O God.

While our days are long and our energy persists...

Grow Us, O God.

When the glare of expectations is too much for us to bear...

Shade Us, O God.

When we need a stronger core and our tendrils grow astray...

Prune Us, O God.

When we feel alone and frightened and the world has gotten mean...

Tend Us, O God.

When our time reaches fulfillment and we're ready to come home...

Harvest Us, O God.

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 there, 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:

*Just as from the heavens
the rain and snow come down
and do not return there
till they have watered the earth,
making it fertile and fruitful,
giving seed to the one who sows
and bread to the one who eats,*

*so shall my word be
that goes forth from my mouth;*

*my word shall not return to me void,
but shall do my will,
achieving the end for which I sent it.*

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

READING 2

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

On that day, Jesus went out of the house
and sat down by the sea.

Such large crowds gathered around him
that he got into a boat and sat down,
and the whole crowd stood along the shore.

And he spoke to them at length in parables, saying:

*“A sower went out to sow.
And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path,
and birds came and ate it up.
Some fell on rocky ground, where it had little soil.
It sprang up at once because the soil was not deep,
and when the sun rose it was scorched,
and it withered for lack of roots.
Some seed fell among thorns,
and the thorns grew up and choked it.
But some seed fell on rich soil and produced fruit,
a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold.
Whoever has ears ought to hear.”*

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ