

Prayer Gathering for 16th Week of Ordinary Time

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

OPENING PRAYER

**The list of things in life we have no control over seems longer than ever...
and it grows each day.
Give us the grace to accept all the things in this world that we can't control
and serenity and courage to encounter and confront all that troubles us.
We ask this in the power of the Holy Spirit through Christ, Our Lord. AMEN.**

READING

MOMENT FOR SILENCE

GOSPEL PASSAGE

SHARING QUESTIONS

"With much lenience you govern us"
**Have you ever thought of God as 'lenient' before?
How does God demonstrate lenience? How about in your life?**

"Let [the weeds and wheat] grow together until harvest"
**Why might it be that God chooses not to take our weaknesses and defects from us
but instead allows us to wrestle with them?**

POSTED RECENTLY

Weaknesses and deficiencies... play a most important part in all our lives. It is because of them that we need others and others need us. We are not all weak in the same spots, and so we supplement and complete one another, each one making up in himself for the lack in another.

— *Thomas Merton* —

DISCUSSION

How have you identified your weaknesses in life? When did they become clear to you?

What makes the difference between a weakness you can overcome and a weakness you must live with?

Based on how God is described in this parable, how should we react to other people's weaknesses?

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

That the Church may be willing to provide the moral leadership that we all sorely need;
we pray... **Lord hear our prayer.**

That politicians, legislators, judges and public officials will consider how their choices fit within
the history of our salvation and thereby align their decisions with the will of God;
we pray... **Lord hear our prayer.**

That those who cannot forgive themselves for their past deeds will taste the mercy that God has
for them; we pray... **Lord hear our prayer.**

That we will find peace and acceptance with our flaws while continuing to strive to become the
best versions of ourselves; we pray... **Lord hear our prayer.**

That we may have the grace to make amends to the people we've hurt through our actions;
we pray... **Lord hear our prayer.**

That all who suffer with heartbreak, illness, anxiety, depression, addiction or despair will allow
God and their loved ones to enter their struggle and accompany them through it;
we pray... **Lord hear our prayer.**

For all our beloved dead... .. and for all who are grieving someone they
love... ..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 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 Wisdom:

There is no God besides you who have the care of all,

For your might is the source of justice;
your mastery over all things makes you lenient to all...

Though you are master of might, you judge with clemency, and
with much lenience you govern us;

for power, whenever you will, attends you. And you taught your
people, by these deeds, that those who are just must be kind;

and you gave your children good ground for hope that you
would permit repentance for their sins.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

READING 2

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew:

Jesus proposed another parable to the crowds, saying:

“The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field.

While everyone was asleep his enemy came and sowed weeds all through the wheat, and then went off. When the crop grew and bore fruit, the weeds appeared as well.

The slaves of the householder came to him and said, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where have the weeds come from?’

He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’

His slaves said to him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’

He replied, ‘No, if you pull up the weeds you might uproot the wheat along with them. Let them grow together until harvest; then at harvest time I will say to the harvesters,

“First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles for burning; but gather the wheat into my barn.”’

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ

Matthew, chapter 13