

Prayer Gathering for the 20th Week in Ordinary Time

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

OPENING PRAYER

**God, our hearts get hardened
when we hold our opinions and ideas above your Word.
Help us to remain supple and moldable in your hands.
You are the Potter and we are your clay;
mold us into your new creation.
We ask this in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ, our Lord. AMEN.**

READING

MOMENT FOR SILENCE

GOSPEL PASSAGE

SHARING QUESTIONS

"For my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples."
**In what ways is the Catholic Church successful at being a Church "for all peoples"?
In what areas does the Catholic Church fall short of that description?**

*Jesus: "It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs."
Later: "Woman, great is your faith!"*
**What did it feel like to hear Jesus speaking this way to the Canaanite woman?
How do you explain his completely different tone just one moment later?
Is this weakness? Hypocrisy? Something else?**

POSTED RECENTLY



DISCUSSION

Fill in these blanks:

"I used to think _____, but I was wrong. Now I can see that _____."

**How often does effectively arguing a case change someone else's heart and mind?
Looking back, what has changed your heart and mind in the past?**

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

May the Church humbly stand as a living witness to truth and freedom, to peace and justice for all; we pray...

Lord, hear our prayer

May our past hurts and struggles make America a more grounded country and each of us more humble citizens; we pray...

Lord, hear our prayer

May first responders, those serving in the military and all in harm's way be uplifted by God's grace; we pray...

Lord, hear our prayer

May we learn to love unity and peace above the satisfaction we get from pushing our opinions; we pray...

Lord, hear our prayer

May the weather be favorable for farmers and may the harvest ahead be abundant; we pray...

Lord, hear our prayer

May our society be further awakened to our deep-seated issues regarding race and committed to healing them; we pray...

Lord, hear our prayer

May the sick and the dying feel the touch of God's care and mercy; we pray...

Lord, hear our prayer

That God may hear our silent prayers...
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 the Prophet Isaiah

Thus says the LORD:

*Observe what is right, do what is just;
for my salvation is about to come,
my justice, about to be revealed...*

*...[The foreigners] I will bring to my holy mountain
and make joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and sacrifices
will be acceptable on my altar,*

*for my house shall be called
a house of prayer for all peoples.*

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

READING 2

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon.
And behold, a Canaanite woman of that district came
and called out,

*“Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David!
My daughter is tormented by a demon.”*

But Jesus did not say a word in answer to her.

Jesus’ disciples came and asked him,
“Send her away, for she keeps calling out after us.”

He said in reply,
“I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”

But the woman came and did Jesus homage, saying,
“Lord, help me.”

He said in reply,
*“It is not right to take the food of the children
and throw it to the dogs.”*

She said,
*“Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps
that fall from the table of their masters.”*

Then Jesus said to her in reply,
*“O woman, great is your faith!
Let it be done for you as you wish.”*

And the woman’s daughter was healed from that hour.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ

Matthew, chapter 15