

Prayer Gathering for 25th Week in Ordinary Time

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

OPENING PRAYER

**Generous God,
you shower us with blessings and look kindly upon our weakness.
Help us raise up our minds to you
and align our actions with those of Christ,
that we may truly be your children, in our hearts and through our deeds.
We ask this in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ, Our Lord. AMEN.**

READING

MOMENT FOR SILENCE

GOSPEL PASSAGE

SHARING QUESTIONS

*“As high as the heavens are above the earth,
so high are my ways above your ways and my thoughts above your thoughts.”*
When in your life have you had a moment of coming to realize that your way of thinking was not like God’s?

When in your life have you had a moment when, very briefly, you saw someone or something in a way that might possibly be the way God sees?

*“What if I wish to give this last one the same as you?
Or am I not free to do as I wish? ...Are you envious because I am generous?”*
In what ways has God been generous to you?

POSTED RECENTLY



DISCUSSION

What comes to mind when you think of this quote about GRACE? About MERCY?

LITANY OF GRACE & MERCY

For the gifts of family, friends and love...

We thank you for your grace, O Lord.

When trials have passed and we can rest...

We thank you for your grace, O Lord.

When those who've died send us a sign...

We thank you for your grace, O Lord.

Since all we have comes from your hand...

We thank you for your grace, O Lord.

When we realize we are at fault...

We thank you for your mercy, Lord.

When, once again, we yell and blame...

We thank you for your mercy, Lord.

When our account is "in the red"...

We thank you for your mercy, Lord.

When we think of Christ, who died for us...

We thank you for your mercy, Lord.

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

Seek the LORD while he may be found,
call him while he is near.

Let the scoundrel forsake his way,
and the wicked his thoughts;
let him turn to the LORD for mercy;
to our God, who is generous in forgiving.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.
As high as the heavens are above the earth,
so high are my ways above your ways
and my thoughts above your thoughts.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

READING 2

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus told his disciples this parable:

*“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner
who went out at dawn to hire laborers for his vineyard.
After agreeing with them for the usual daily wage,
he sent them into his vineyard.
Going out about nine o’clock,
the landowner saw others standing idle in the marketplace,
and he said to them, ‘You too go into my vineyard.’”...*

*And he went out again around noon,
and around three o’clock, and did likewise.
Going out about five o’clock,
the landowner found others standing around...
and he said to them, ‘You too go into my vineyard.’*

*When it was evening the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman,
‘Summon the laborers and give them their pay,
beginning with the last and ending with the first.’
When those who had started about five o’clock came,
each received the usual daily wage.
So when the first came, they thought that they would receive more,
but each of them also got the usual wage.
And on receiving it they grumbled against the landowner, saying,
‘These last ones worked only one hour,
and you have made them equal to us,
who bore the day’s burden and the heat.’*

*He said to one of them in reply,
‘My friend, I am not cheating you.
Did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?
Take what is yours and go.
What if I wish to give this last one the same as you?
Or am I not free to do as I wish with my own money?
Are you envious because I am generous?’*

Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ

Matthew, chapter 20