

Prayer Gathering for 28th Week of Ordinary Time

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

OPENING PRAYER

**All knowing, all loving God,
although this Earth you have given us is the only home we have ever known,
your word tells us that our true home is in the Kingdom of Heaven.
Help us, with each day of our lives, and with each choice that we make,
to prepare for our arrival into the hall of your heavenly banquet.
We ask this in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ, Our Lord. AMEN.**

READING

MOMENT FOR SILENCE

GOSPEL PASSAGE

SHARING QUESTIONS

When you close your eyes and try to picture heaven, what appears in your mind?

“The LORD of hosts will provide for all peoples a feast of rich food and choice wines”
When you think of the best meal or meals in your memory, which one(es) come to mind? How might this be a foretaste of heaven?

POSTED RECENTLY



DISCUSSION

“The servants went out into the streets and gathered all they found, bad and good alike.”
What do you make of those who are “bad” being invited to the feast?

If you were in charge of heaven, what would be the requirements to enter?

How might God’s entrance policy differ from yours?

** During the pause in the prayer for all who have died, the group can determine for itself if members could say aloud the first names of those who are on their minds, or if the group would rather everyone remember those names in silence.*

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL*

For all members of the Church throughout the world; we pray... **God, hear us.**

For all those who are members of churches other than ours; we pray... **God, hear us.**

For all those with no religion; we pray... **God, hear us.**

For the leaders we voted for in past elections; we pray... **God, hear us.**

For the leaders we voted against in past elections; we pray... **God, hear us.**

For all candidates, those we support and those we oppose; we pray... **God, hear us.**

For all who are sick, and for all who are at risk; we pray... **God, hear us.**

For all who are out of work; we pray... **God, hear us.**

For all who have no home, and for all whose homes and homelands are violent; we pray...
God, hear us.

For all who have suffered loss, rejection or heartbreak; we pray... **God, hear us.**

* For all those who have died, including those we remember now ... *pause*... ; we pray...
God, hear us.

For all the needs we carry in our hearts; we pray... **God, hear us.**

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

On this mountain the LORD of hosts
will provide for all peoples
a feast of rich food and choice wines,
juicy, rich food and pure, choice wines.

On this mountain he will destroy
the veil that veils all peoples,
the web that is woven over all nations;
he will destroy death forever.

The Lord GOD will wipe away
the tears from every face;

the reproach of his people he will remove from the whole earth;
for the LORD has spoken.

On that day it will be said:

*"Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us!
This is the LORD for whom we looked;
let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!"*

For the hand of the LORD will rest on this mountain.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

READING 2

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus again in reply
spoke to the chief priests and elders of the people in parables,
saying,

"The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king
who gave a wedding feast for his son.
He dispatched his servants
to summon the invited guests to the feast,
but they refused to come...

Some ignored the invitation and went away,
one to his farm,
another to his business...

Then he said to his servants,
*'The feast is ready,
but those who were invited were not worthy to come.
Go out, therefore, into the main roads
and invite to the feast whomever you find.'*

The servants went out into the streets
and gathered all they found,
bad and good alike,

and the hall was filled with guests."

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ

Matthew, chapter 22