

Prayer Gathering for Third Week of Ordinary Time

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

OPENING PRAYER

**God of all ages...
you call to us from eternity; inviting us to align with your beautiful divine plan.
Help us to stop ruminating over the past... to stop fretting about the future...
and meet you here in this present sacred moment.
We ask this in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ, Our Lord. AMEN.**

READING

MOMENT FOR SILENCE

GOSPEL PASSAGE

SHARING QUESTIONS

*"I tell you, brothers and sisters, the time is running out...
For the world in its present form is passing away."*

How often do you think about the end of the world?

How does the thought make you feel: Fearful? Hopeful? Expectant? Something else?

"This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand."

What exactly does it mean to say that this moment is "the time of fulfillment"?

How do you perceive God being present... in the gloom of winter... through the tragedies of life... amidst political turmoil?

POSTED RECENTLY

**"Ask yourself what 'problem'
you have right now,
not next year, tomorrow,
or five minutes from now.
What is wrong with
this moment?"**

— Eckhart Tolle in *The Power of Now Journal*

DISCUSSION

ETERNAL

/əˈtərn(ə)l/

Without end or beginning. Outside of time.

Past, present and future belong to time. We live in time, but God is eternal.

Therefore, this present moment is our connection to God and to eternity.

If we are fully present, right here, right now, we touch eternity. We connect with God.

What about this deep thought excites you? Confuses you? Challenges you?

LITANY

The Church has preached Christ for 20 Centuries...

And I meet this moment here and now.

The past of the Church has been at times glorious, at times sinful...

And I meet this moment here and now.

The religion of the young generations is unclear; future of the Church is uncertain...

And I meet this moment here and now.

Our country faces crisis upon crisis; none of them easy to solve...

And I meet this moment here and now.

The tensions in our society require tact, diplomacy and deep humility...

And I meet this moment here and now.

Gone is the assurance that each generation will do better than the previous one did...

And I meet this moment here and now.

Everyday people are called upon to show heroic virtue...

And I meet this moment here and now.

“This is the time of fulfillment...”

And I meet this moment here and now.

“The Kingdom of God is at hand...”

And I meet this moment here and now.

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 first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

I tell you, brothers and sisters,
the time is running out.

From now on,
let those having wives act as not having them,
those weeping as not weeping,
those rejoicing as not rejoicing,
those buying as not owning,
those using the world as not using it fully.

For the world in its present form is passing away.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

READING 2

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

After John had been arrested,
Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God:

*“This is the time of fulfillment.
The kingdom of God is at hand.
Repent, and believe in the gospel.”*

As he passed by the Sea of Galilee,
he saw Simon and his brother Andrew
casting their nets into the sea;
they were fishermen.

Jesus said to them,
“Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.”
Then they abandoned their nets and followed him.

He walked along a little farther
and saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John.
They too were in a boat mending their nets.
Then he called them.

So they left their father Zebedee in the boat
along with the hired men and followed him.

The Gospel of the Lord *Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ*