

## Prayer Gathering for Fourth Sunday of Easter

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

OPENING PRAYER

**Good Shepherd,  
calm our noisy minds and hearts so we can hear your voice shepherding our lives.  
Never allow us to forget the power of your Father's love,  
who sent you as our savior and friend.  
You live forever with the Father and the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. AMEN.**

READING

MOMENT FOR SILENCE

GOSPEL PASSAGE

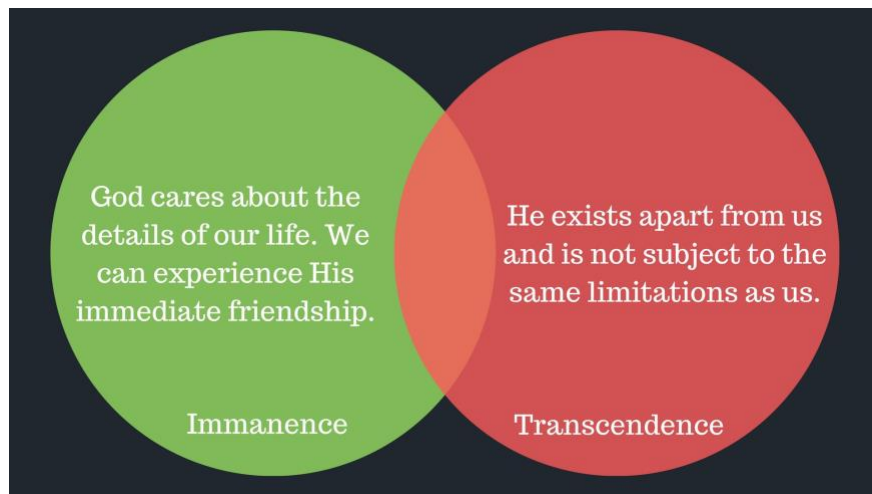
SHARING QUESTIONS

*"See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are."*

**What does it mean to be a Child of God? How is your relationship with God similar to your relationship with your parents? How is it different?**

*"We are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is."*  
**We shall be like God?! This is an extraordinary promise. What do you make of it?**

POSTED RECENTLY



DISCUSSION

*"I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me; just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep."*

**What is a time you have felt that God understood your struggles and vulnerability with the kind of compassion of someone who "gets it"?**

**When have you been aware that God was a "Higher Power," far beyond your power and that God was not one bit "worried" about the things that worry you?**

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

That all of us will trust in God's power to do what we cannot; we pray... **Lord, hear us.**

That we may claim God's compassion, as the One who knows what we face; we pray... **Lord, hear us.**

That the plans and goals of all government leaders may align with God's will; we pray... **Lord, hear us.**

That we may strive to quiet the noise in our lives so we can hear God's voice; we pray... **Lord, hear us.**

That we may know more deeply each day that we are God's children; we pray... **Lord, hear us.**

That we may never forget that everyone else is God's child as well; we pray... **Lord, hear us.**

That the poor may be on our minds and charity may be in our personal budget; we pray... **Lord, hear us.**

For God's children in Africa, Asia, The Middle East, Europe & Latin America; we pray... **Lord, hear us.**

For those who are sick, and those who are caring for them; we pray... **Lord, hear us.**

For those who are dying and for those keeping vigil; we pray... **Lord, hear us.**

For those who are alone; we pray... **Lord, hear us.**

For our beloved dead... .. we pray... **Lord, 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 here, 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 John

Beloved:

See what love the Father has bestowed on us  
that we may be called the children of God.

Yet so we are.

The reason the world does not know us  
is that it did not know him.

Beloved, we are God's children now;  
what we shall be has not yet been revealed.  
We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him,  
for we shall see him as he is.

The Word of the Lord

*Thanks be to God*

## READING 2

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said:

*“I am the good shepherd.  
A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.*

*A hired man, who is not a shepherd  
and whose sheep are not his own,  
sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away,  
and the wolf catches and scatters them.*

*This is because he works for pay  
and has no concern for the sheep.*

*I am the good shepherd,  
and I know mine and mine know me,  
just as the Father knows me and I know the Father;  
and I will lay down my life for the sheep.*

*I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold.  
These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice,  
and there will be one flock, one shepherd.*

The Gospel of the Lord

*Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ*