

## Prayer Gathering for 17<sup>th</sup> Week of Ordinary Time

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

OPENING PRAYER

**God of abundance,  
there is no lack in our lives that you cannot fill; no hunger you cannot satisfy.  
Help us let go of our attachment to having things go our way and follow our timetable,  
and make us ready instead to see and accept your miracles in our lives.  
We ask this in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ, our Lord. AMEN.**

READING

MOMENT FOR SILENCE

GOSPEL PASSAGE

SHARING QUESTIONS

*“When they had eaten, there was some left over, as the LORD had said...”*

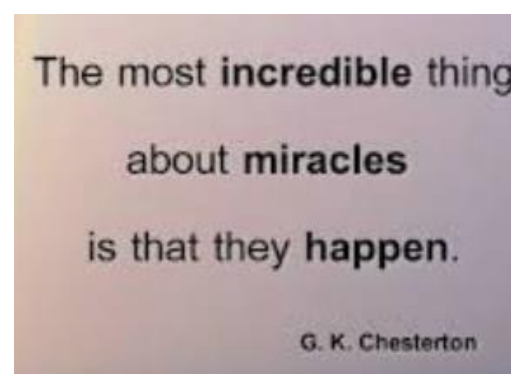
**When have you experienced a tricky situation that you were sure was not going to work out, but, to your surprise, it did?**

*“But his servant objected, ‘How can I set this before a hundred people?’” (Elisha)*

*“200 days’ wages worth of food would not be enough for each of them to have a little!” (Philip)*

**Things that are impossible for us are effortless for God. What in your life have you been stressing over or fretting about, that you could instead hand over to God?**

POSTED RECENTLY



DISCUSSION

**Many of us have experienced miracles in our lives but rarely have a chance to talk about them. Have you ever experienced a miracle? Please tell us about it. Would you ever be willing to share that with those outside this group?**

*“There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?” Jesus said, “Have the people recline.”*

**In the Eucharist, we provide the bread and wine, and Christ provides the miracle of his true presence. How sure are you of this miracle, which you regularly experience?**

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

That petty arguments will never be allowed to divide our Church; we pray...  
**Lord, Hear Our Prayer.**

That our elected officials will recognize that they are called to lead us not according to their wishes, but to God's; we pray...  
**Lord, Hear Our Prayer.**

That the days of summer will provide us some rest from our routines, allowing time for fresh perspective to face life's challenges; we pray...  
**Lord, Hear Our Prayer.**

That we will be open to the miracles – large and small – that God provides; in ways that we can see and ways that are hidden; we pray...  
**Lord, Hear Our Prayer.**

That our children and youth will use social media to connect and uplift one another rather than to wound and scar; we pray...  
**Lord, Hear Our Prayer.**

That all who are suffering from wildfires and floods elsewhere, will be safe; and that all of us will do our part to lighten the burden our earth has to bear as home to 8 billion of us; we pray...  
**Lord, Hear Our Prayer.**

For the poor, for the billions living on less than \$2 a day, for our neighbors who struggle to pay bills and get health care; we pray...  
**Lord, Hear Our Prayer.**

For the sick... .. we pray...  
**Lord, Hear Our Prayer.**

For our beloved dead... .. and for all who are grieving a loss... .. we pray...  
**Lord, Hear Our Prayer.**

For all the needs we offer to God in silence... .. 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 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 book of the prophet Amos

A man came from Baal-shalishah  
bringing to Elisha, the man of God,  
twenty barley loaves made from the firstfruits,  
and fresh grain in the ear.

Elisha said,

*“Give it to the people to eat.”*

But his servant objected,

*“How can I set this before a hundred people?”*

Elisha insisted,

*“Give it to the people to eat.”*

*“For thus says the LORD:*

*‘They shall eat and there shall be some left over.’”*

And when they had eaten,  
there was some left over,  
as the LORD had said.

The word of the Lord

*Thanks be to God*

## READING 2

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

Jesus went across the Sea of Galilee.

A large crowd followed him,  
because they saw the signs he was performing on the sick.

Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples.  
The Jewish feast of Passover was near.

When Jesus raised his eyes and saw that a large crowd was coming to him,  
he said to Philip,

*“Where can we buy enough food for them to eat?”*

He said this to test him, because he himself knew what he was going to do.

Philip answered him,

*“200 days’ wages worth of food would not be enough  
for each of them to have a little.”*

One of his disciples, Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, said to him,

*“There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish;  
but what good are these for so many?”*

Jesus said, *“Have the people recline.”*

Now there was a great deal of grass in that place.

So the men reclined, about 5,000 in number.

Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks,  
and distributed them to those who were reclining,  
and also as much of the fish as they wanted.

When they had had their fill, he said to his disciples,

*“Gather the fragments left over,  
so that nothing will be wasted.”*

So they collected them, and filled twelve wicker baskets with fragments  
from the five barley loaves that had been more than they could eat.

The Gospel of the Lord

*Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ*

*John, chapter 6*