

Prayer Gathering for 22nd Week of Ordinary Time

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

OPENING PRAYER

**God of Moses, Father of Jesus,
You gave us your law as our guardian and guide.
Help us to love and follow your commands
and to speak silently of your greatness – 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

“Now, Israel, hear the statutes and decrees which I am teaching you to observe, that you may live”
Could you recite the 10 Commandments without looking? If not, which ones do you know by heart? What is your relationship with these Commandments? Do they shape your life? If so, how? If not, why is that?

Pharisees: “Why do your disciples not follow the tradition of the elders, but instead eat a meal with unclean hands?”

Jesus: “You disregard God’s commandment but cling to human tradition”

How can you tell the difference between a human tradition (what is often called “man-made laws”) and God’s law? Do human laws sometimes get mixed up with God’s laws even today? How so? How do we respond to this as people of faith?

POSTED RECENTLY

These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.
Deuteronomy 6:6-7

“The Bible calls itself food. The value of food is not in the discussion it arouses but in the nourishment it imparts.”
WILL H. HOUGHTON

DISCUSSION

“Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person; but the things that come out from within are what defile.”

The doctrine of Original Sin says that humans have an innate tendency to be attracted to unwholesome behavior and to therefore compulsively sin.

How does God’s law help us deal with this defect of our character?

How do you make peace with the imperfections and flaws you can’t seem to overcome?

LITANY

As we deal with our tendency to lash out in anger:

Direct our steps, O Lord, our God.

As we confront the arrogance hidden beneath our opinions:

Direct our steps, O Lord, our God.

As we admit the times that our words are not honest:

Direct our steps, O Lord, our God.

As we face the vanity of our day-to-day goals:

Direct our steps, O Lord, our God.

As we confront the envy and jealousy that spring up from our comparisons to others:

Direct our steps, O Lord, our God.

As we deal with the greed that makes us want the best for ourselves:

Direct our steps, O Lord, our God.

As we admit that our fear often speaks more loudly than our faith:

Direct our steps, O Lord, our God.

As we face that our numbing of our feelings with food and drink will lead to trouble:

Direct our steps, O Lord, our God.

As we confront how our attractions could lead us to disrespect the sanctity of relationships:

Direct our steps, O Lord, our God.

As we look upon those times that our hands failed to do the good they could have done:

Direct our steps, O Lord, our God.

Now and always:

Direct our steps, O Lord, our God.

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 Deuteronomy

Moses said to the people:

*“Now, Israel, hear the statutes and decrees
which I am teaching you to observe,
that you may live,
and may enter in and take possession of the land
which the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you.*

*In your observance of the commandments
of the LORD, your God, which I enjoin upon you,
you shall not add to what I command you
nor subtract from it.*

*Observe them carefully,
for thus will you give evidence
of your wisdom and intelligence to the nations,
who will hear of all these statutes and say:*

‘This great nation is truly a wise and intelligent people.’

*For what great nation is there
that has gods so close to it as the LORD, our God, is to us
whenever we call upon him?*

*Or what great nation has statutes and decrees
that are as just as this whole law
which I am setting before you today?”*

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

READING 2

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

When the Pharisees with some scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus, they observed that some of his disciples ate their meals with unclean, that is, unwashed, hands.

—For the Pharisees and, in fact, all Jews, do not eat without carefully washing their hands, keeping the tradition of the elders...—

So the Pharisees and scribes questioned him,

“Why do your disciples not follow the tradition of the elders but instead eat a meal with unclean hands?”

He responded,

*“Well did Isaiah prophesy about you hypocrites, as it is written:
‘This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
in vain do they worship me,
teaching as doctrines human precepts.’*

You disregard God’s commandment but cling to human tradition.”

He summoned the crowd again and said to them,

*“Hear me, all of you, and understand.
Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person;
but the things that come out from within are what defile.*

*“From within people, from their hearts,
come evil thoughts, unchastity, theft, murder,
adultery, greed, malice, deceit,
licentiousness, envy, blasphemy, arrogance, folly.*

All these evils come from within and they defile.”

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ

Mark, chapter 7