

Prayer Gathering for 23rd Week of Ordinary Time

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

OPENING PRAYER

**God of all Creation,
You spoke your word over the chaos and the universe took shape.
Your Son spoke words of healing and the sick rose up and danced for joy.
Help us to trust in the power of your Word to heal and guide us in every way.
We ask this in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ, our Lord. AMEN.**

READING

MOMENT FOR SILENCE

GOSPEL PASSAGE

SHARING QUESTIONS

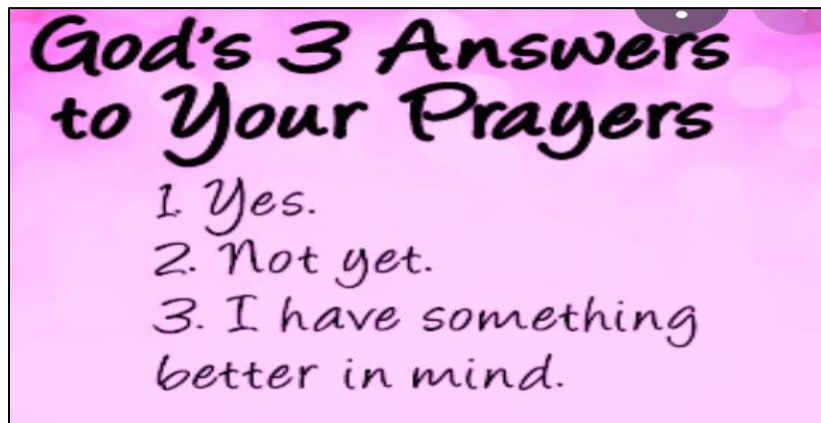
“Say to those whose hearts are frightened: ‘Be strong, fear not!’”

God intends for us to be the voice of encouragement and reassurance to those who are frightened. What specific experience comes to mind of a time when someone encouraged you in a time of fear? When have you encouraged someone?

“Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf be cleared...”

We were told that words were not as powerful as “sticks” or “stones,” but this Scripture says that our words have significant healing power. What phrase has ever been said to you or what quote has come to your attention that has enriched your life with its power?

POSTED RECENTLY



DISCUSSION

“And people brought to him a deaf man who had a speech impediment and begged him to lay his hand on him.”

Have you ever asked God for healing and not received it, or received it later?

When have you prayed hard for one outcome, but to no avail; and only later realized that God had something better in mind?

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

That we will let go of whatever is blocking God's miracles in our lives;
we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That all leaders will be open to God's direction in the decisions they make;
we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That all who are in what feels like a dead-end relationship will be open to God's will for what is
the next right decision to make; we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That we will be able to see God's blessings even in the midst of our losses;
we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That all survivors of abuse in all of its forms may find justice and healing;
we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That the people of the Middle East will be protected and comforted by God;
we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That all the sick may find the healing they need most;
we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That we will be filled with compassion with one another as illness tests our bodies and spirits;
we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all who have died... and for all who grieve... ...
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 Isaiah

Thus says the LORD:

“Say to those whose hearts are frightened:

*‘Be strong, fear not!
Here is your God,
he comes with vindication;
with divine recompense
he comes to save you.*

*Then will the eyes of the blind be opened,
the ears of the deaf be cleared;
then will the lame leap like a stag,
then the tongue of the mute will sing.
Streams will burst forth in the desert,
and rivers in the steppe.
The burning sands will become pools,
and the thirsty ground, springs of water.’”*

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

READING 2

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

Again Jesus left the district of Tyre
and went by way of Sidon to the Sea of Galilee,
into the district of the Decapolis.

And people brought to him a deaf man
who had a speech impediment
and begged him to lay his hand on him.

He took him off by himself away from the crowd.

He put his finger into the man's ears
and, spitting, touched his tongue;
then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him,
“Ephphatha!”— that is, *“Be opened!”* —

And immediately the man's ears were opened,
his speech impediment was removed, and he spoke plainly.

He ordered them not to tell anyone.
But the more he ordered them not to,
the more they proclaimed it.

They were exceedingly astonished and they said,
*“He has done all things well.
He makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.”*

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ

Mark, chapter 7