

## Prayer Gathering for 34<sup>th</sup> Week of Ordinary Time

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

OPENING PRAYER

**God of All Creation,  
Your Son showed us how to live our lives in the radiance of truth.  
He often attracted crowds who didn't understand his message  
and turned against him in the blink of an eye.  
Help us to follow him with faithfulness... and let nothing interrupt our pursuit of his truth.  
We ask this in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ, our Lord. AMEN.**

READING

MOMENT FOR SILENCE

GOSPEL PASSAGE

SHARING QUESTIONS

*“When he reached the Ancient One and was presented before Him,  
the one like a Son of man received dominion, glory, and kingship”*

**Christ is like us – the one “like the Son of man.” Perhaps this is why many people insist that he was a great teacher, but not God. What makes you accept that Christ is God and not just the best human to ever live? Is that a belief you have ever struggled with?**

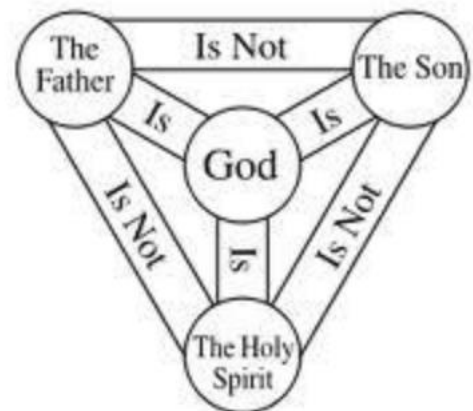
*“His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not be taken away,  
his kingship shall not be destroyed.”*

**The headlines in the news sometimes convince us that evil is conquering goodness. What allows you to continue believing that Christ's kingship is in effect when the world seems to be such a mess?**

POSTED RECENTLY

The biggest threat to the church today is fans who call themselves Christians but aren't actually interested in following Christ. They want to be close enough to Jesus to get all the benefits, but not so close that it requires anything from them.

KYLE IDLEMAN



DISCUSSION

*“You say I am a king.*

*For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth.”*

**Christ never says “Worship me” in the Scriptures, but he often says “Follow me.” Why do you suppose this is? What is the danger of being a “fan” of Christ or an “admirer” rather than a “follower”?**

LITANY

Some say that Christianity puts you on the winning team...

**I do not wish to be your fan, O Lord. I commit to following you.**

Some say that worshipping Christ is the fast track to success...

**I do not wish to be your fan, O Lord. I commit to following you.**

Some say that Christ has blessed them with wealth and prosperity...

**I do not wish to be your fan, O Lord. I commit to following you.**

Some stick with Christ to stay out of hell...

**I do not wish to be your fan, O Lord. I commit to following you.**

Some are fans of Christ “just in case”...

**I do not wish to be your fan, O Lord. I commit to following you.**

Some see religion as an insurance policy against struggles and misfortune...

**I do not wish to be your fan, O Lord. I commit to following you.**

Some have never heard Christ say “Take up your cross”...

**I do not wish to be your fan, O Lord. I commit to following you.**

Some want better treatment from life that Christ himself had...

**I do not wish to be your fan, O Lord. I commit to following you.**

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 Daniel

As the visions during the night continued,  
I saw one – like a Son of man – coming,  
on the clouds of heaven;

when he reached the Ancient One  
and was presented before him,  
the one like a Son of man received  
dominion, glory, and kingship;

all peoples,  
nations,  
and languages serve him.

His dominion is an everlasting dominion  
that shall not be taken away,  
his kingship shall not be destroyed.

The word of the Lord

*Thanks be to God*

## READING 2

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

Pilate said to Jesus, *"Are you the King of the Jews?"*

Jesus answered,

*"Do you say this on your own  
or have others told you about me?"*

Pilate answered,

*"I am not a Jew, am I?  
Your own nation and the chief priests handed you over to me.  
What have you done?"*

Jesus answered,

*"My kingdom does not belong to this world.  
If my kingdom did belong to this world,  
my attendants would be fighting  
to keep me from being handed over to the Jews.  
But as it is, my kingdom is not here."*

So Pilate said to him, *"Then you are a king?"*

Jesus answered,

*"You say I am a king.  
For this I was born and for this I came into the world,  
to testify to the truth.  
Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."*

The Gospel of the Lord

*Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ*

*John, chapter 18*