

## Prayer Gathering for Octave of Easter

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

OPENING PRAYER

**Lord of all Life and Power,  
your Son conquered the grave  
and went far beyond death... to new and everlasting life.  
Having been made one with him, may we too escape the bonds of death  
and press onward toward eternal life with you in glory.  
We ask this in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ, our Lord. AMEN.**

READING

MOMENT FOR SILENCE

GOSPEL PASSAGE

SHARING QUESTIONS

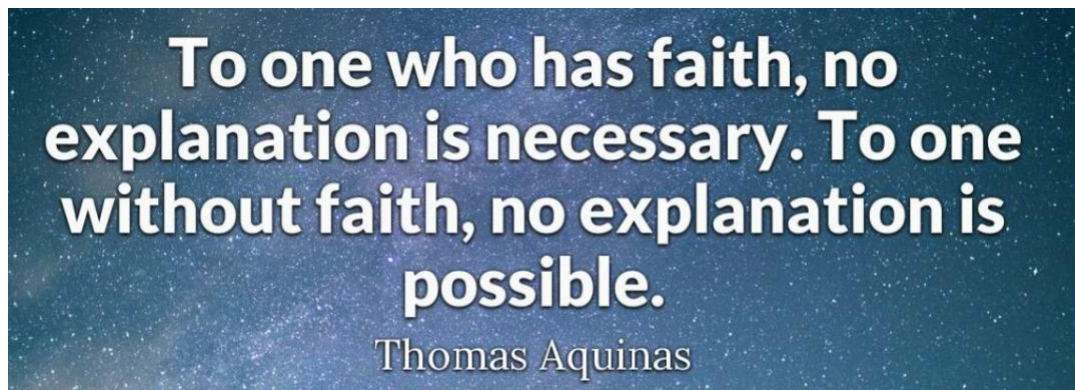
*“God raised [Jesus] on the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all the people, but to us... who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.”*

**When have you met or been close to someone who knew the same things about Jesus that you do, but didn’t regard him in the same way or care about him in the way you do? What is that experience like?**

*“Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first...but did not go in. When [Peter] arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there...”*

**What do you make of the fact that John put so much detail into this part of the story? What is of value in this? How does this affect the story for you?**

POSTED RECENTLY



DISCUSSION

*“Then the other disciple also went in...and he saw and believed. For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead.”*

**Have you ever believed something that you couldn’t prove to others?**

**Have you ever believed something that you couldn’t understand, yet somehow *knew* to be true? What comes to mind as you ponder this?**

## PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

That the power of the Resurrection may flood the entire world and give encouragement to those in the shadow of death; we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That all who hold worldly power in their hands will tremble when they consider God's divine power; we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That all in the tomb of addiction may find freedom from death and a new life of sobriety; we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That the depressed, the anxious, and the mentally ill may be touched by Christ's peace; we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That war may end... and that the sinful selfishness that starts wars may be banished; we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That all who lack the things they need to live in dignity may know the generosity of God through our corporal works of mercy; we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That all who are drawing close to the end of life will trust in the promises of Christ and come to know eternal life; we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all those we love who have died...      ...      ...      ... and for all those grieving a loss...  
...      ...      ...we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the needs we now share with 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 Acts of the Apostles:

Peter proceeded to speak and said:

*“You know what has happened all over Judea,  
beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached,  
how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth  
with the Holy Spirit and power.*

*He went about doing good  
and healing all those oppressed by the devil,  
for God was with him.*

*We are witnesses of all that he did  
both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem.*

*They put him to death by hanging him on a tree.  
This man God raised on the third day  
and granted that he be visible,  
not to all the people, but to us,  
the witnesses chosen by God in advance,  
who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.*

*He commissioned us to preach to the people  
and testify that he is the one appointed by God  
as judge of the living and the dead.*

*To him all the prophets bear witness,  
that everyone who believes in him  
will receive forgiveness of sins through his name.”*

The word of the Lord

*Thanks be to God*

## READING 2

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

On the first day of the week,  
Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning,  
while it was still dark,  
and saw the stone removed from the tomb.

So she ran and went to Simon Peter  
and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them,  
*“They have taken the Lord from the tomb,  
and we don’t know where they put him.”*

So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb.  
They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter  
and arrived at the tomb first;  
he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in.

When Simon Peter arrived after him,  
he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there,  
and the cloth that had covered his head,  
not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place.

Then the other disciple also went in,  
the one who had arrived at the tomb first,  
and he saw and believed.

For they did not yet understand the Scripture  
that he had to rise from the dead.

The Gospel of the Lord

*Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ*

*John, chapter 20*