

Prayer Gathering for Holy Week

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

OPENING PRAYER

**God of the Brokenhearted, Father of Those Who Suffer,
your Son should have been greeted with fanfare and lauded by all he met,
but his mission of love required facing injustice, cruelty and hate.
Help us join the struggles of our lives to his struggles
and to humble ourselves before all the hurt we face.
We ask this in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ, our Lord. AMEN.**

READING

MOMENT FOR SILENCE

GOSPEL PASSAGE

SHARING QUESTIONS

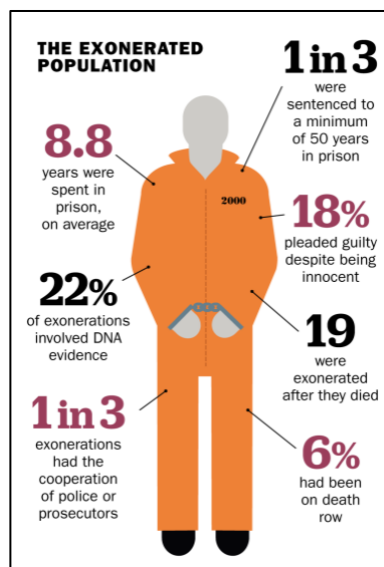
*“Christ Jesus... did not regard equality with God something to be grasped.
Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave...”*

Jesus, though God in flesh, never demanded to be treated like a dignitary. Who is the most humble person you have ever met? What have you learned from her/him?

“When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left.”

We want to believe that the justice system can be depended upon to acquit the innocent and convict the guilty, but Jesus Christ was executed as a criminal. What other stories of wrongful conviction come to mind when you consider Jesus’ unjust conviction?

POSTED RECENTLY



DISCUSSION

“Father, forgive them, they know not what they do.”

Many people can’t forgive because the person who hurt them never apologized. Jesus forgave his enemies even before they completed their vicious betrayal. How do you feel about this? What does it say about forgiveness? How does this apply to your life?

LITANY

The anger over what they did is eating me alive...

Father, forgive them, they know not what they do...

I trusted and I loved and now I just feel so betrayed...

Father, forgive them, they know not what they do...

The life that I was promised now has been snatched away from me...

Father, forgive them, they know not what they do...

We came so close to success, but now the track we're on is wrong...

Father, forgive them, they know not what they do...

The blindness of our leaders truly cannot be excused...

Father, forgive them, they know not what they do...

I watch this generation just walk right into the trap...

Father, forgive them, they know not what they do...

I'm old enough to know exactly where this all will lead...

Father, forgive them, they know not what they do...

They all say: "If there is a God, then how could all this be?"

Father, forgive them, they know not what they do...

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 Paul to the Philippians:

Christ Jesus,
though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God something to be grasped.

Rather, he emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,

coming in human likeness;
and found human in appearance,
he humbled himself,
becoming obedient to the point of death,
even death on a cross.

Because of this, God greatly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name
which is above every name,

that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

READING 2

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

When they came to the place called the Skull,
they crucified him and the criminals there,
one on his right, the other on his left.

Then Jesus said, *“Father, forgive them, they know not what they do.”*

They divided his garments by casting lots.
The people stood by and watched;
the rulers, meanwhile, sneered at him and said,
*“He saved others, let him save himself
if he is the chosen one, the Christ of God.”*
Even the soldiers jeered at him.

Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying,
“Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us.”

The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply,
*“Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation?
And indeed, we have been condemned justly,
for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes,
but this man has done nothing criminal.”*

Then he said, *“Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”*

He replied to him, *“Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”*

It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land
until three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun.
Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle.

Jesus cried out in a loud voice,
“Father, into your hands I commend my spirit”

...and when he had said this he breathed his last.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ

Luke, chapter 22