

Prayer Gathering for Fifth Week of Easter

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

OPENING PRAYER

**God of Love,
your Son taught us that your whole identity is love
and that everything that comes from your hand is for the good of your children.
Be with us in those moments that seem too unfair to face... too hard to endure.
Let us be beacons of love and light in the darkness of night.
We ask this in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ, our Lord. AMEN.**

READING

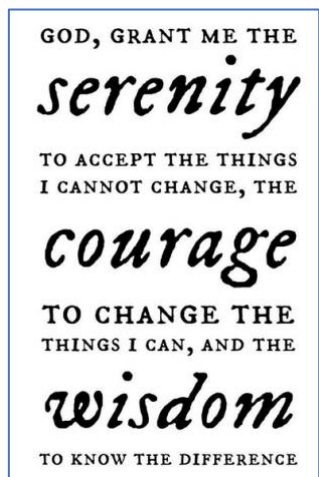
MOMENT FOR SILENCE

GOSPEL PASSAGE

SHARING QUESTIONS

“They strengthened the spirits of the disciples and exhorted them to persevere in the faith, saying, ‘It is necessary for us to undergo many hardships to enter the kingdom of God.’”
Hardships are an unfortunate part of life. But Paul and Barnabas call them “necessary.” Have you ever seen hardships as necessary? What, if anything, have your hardships personally brought you?

POSTED RECENTLY



Short Version

**God grant me the serenity
To accept the things I cannot change;
Courage to change the things I can;
And wisdom to know the difference.
Living one day at a time;
Enjoying one moment at a time;
Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;
Taking, as He did, this sinful world
As it is, not as I would have it;
Trusting that He will make all things right
If I surrender to His Will;
So that I may be reasonably happy in this life
And supremely happy with Him
Forever and ever in the next.**

Full Version

DISCUSSION

**Have you ever before heard the full version of the Serenity Prayer?
What line or lines stand out to you?**

“I give you a new commandment: love one another.”
Sometimes loving is hard. What comes to mind when you think of a time when only the command to love was enough to make you or someone else attempt to show love?

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

That we who follow Jesus will come to see the faithful facing of hardships as our pathway to peace; we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer**

That leaders of embattled countries will persevere as they lead their people through crisis; we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer**

That bullies of all ages and kinds will cease their intimidations and repent for the hurt they have caused; we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer**

That we will follow Jesus' command to love others, even those who have hurt us and others; we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer**

That our children will be raised to have open minds and hearts and be free of the burden of racism and intolerance; we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer**

That we may share our food with those who lack money and whose countries' rations are too meagre; we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer**

That our young people will listen to the voice of God when they are called into service or consecrated life; we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer**

That the sick, the hurting, the lonely and those with emotional scars may find relief and rest; we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer**

For our beloved dead... and for all who are grieving a loss...
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:

After Paul and Barnabas
had proclaimed the good news to that city
and made a considerable number of disciples,
they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch.

They strengthened the spirits of the disciples
and exhorted them to persevere in the faith, saying,
*“It is necessary for us to undergo many hardships
to enter the kingdom of God.”*

They appointed elders for them in each church and,
with prayer and fasting, commended them to the Lord
in whom they had put their faith.

Then they traveled through Pisidia and reached Pamphylia.
After proclaiming the word at Perga they went down to Attalia.
From there they sailed to Antioch,
where they had been commended to the grace of God
for the work they had now accomplished.

And when they arrived, they called the church together
and reported what God had done with them
and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

READING 2

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

When Judas had left them,
Jesus said,

*“Now is the Son of Man glorified,
and God is glorified in him.*

*If God is glorified in him,
God will also glorify him in himself,
and God will glorify him at once.*

*My children, I will be with you only a little while longer.
I give you a new commandment: love one another.*

As I have loved you, so you also should love one another.

*This is how all will know
that you are my disciples,
if you have love for one another.”*

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ