

Prayer Gathering for 20th Week of Ordinary Time

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

OPENING PRAYER

**God of Every Nation, Maker of Every Person,
from the beginning of creation, you made us stewards of the earth
and keepers of our brothers and sisters.
When the risks of speaking up about what is right seem too scary to take
remind us of the power and grace you give to those who do your will.
We ask this in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ, our Lord. AMEN.**

READING

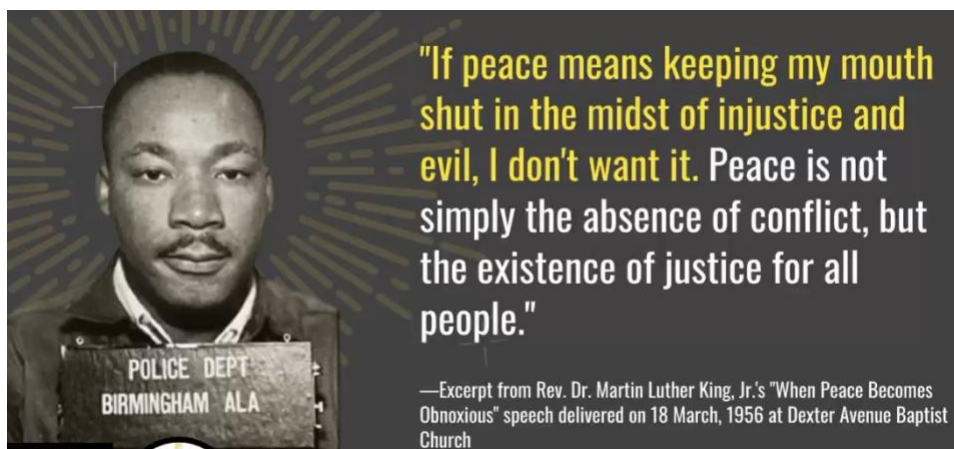
MOMENT FOR SILENCE

GOSPEL PASSAGE

SHARING QUESTIONS

“And so they took Jeremiah and threw him into the cistern... letting him down with ropes. There was no water in the cistern, only mud, and Jeremiah sank into the mud.”
Jeremiah had originally resisted God’s call because it scared him, but then God convinced him to accept his assignment. And now THIS is what it has led to. When have you tried to do the right thing and gotten burned? How did you keep going?
“Then the king ordered Ebed-melech the Cushite to take three men along with him, and draw the prophet Jeremiah out of the cistern before he should die.”
One set of advisors told the king to punish Jeremiah, and he did. Another advisor later told the king to rescue him and he did. When have you found yourself wrongly influenced by someone? How did you correct what you had earlier accepted?

POSTED RECENTLY



DISCUSSION

“Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth?”
Jesus does not want his followers to “make peace” with all things in life, but at times to disrupt the harmful aspects of the status quo. What do you think Jesus might be inviting you to become less comfortable with in your environment?

LITANY

When I feel tempted to settle for less than I know God is calling me to...

May God's holy fire burn bright in me.

When I tell myself that person can get along fine without my kindness...

May God's holy fire burn bright in me.

When I might not be invited back if I don't laugh at the host's joke...

May God's holy fire burn bright in me.

When people ask: "Why can't you lighten up?"

May God's holy fire burn bright in me.

When I have to use my voice in a way I never have before...

May God's holy fire burn bright in me.

When I worry that my kids will be dismissed if feathers get ruffled...

May God's holy fire burn bright in me.

When I just want to keep things light and not have to think so much...

May God's holy fire burn bright in me.

When the memories of conflict from my childhood make speaking up turn my blood to ice...

May God's holy fire burn bright in me.

When I'd rather cut people off than risk sharing my values...

May God's holy fire burn bright in me.

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 Jeremiah:

In those days, the princes said to the king:

*"Jeremiah ought to be put to death;
he is demoralizing the soldiers who are left in this city,
and all the people, by speaking such things to them;
he is not interested in the welfare of our people,
but in their ruin."*

King Zedekiah answered: *"He is in your power"*;
for the king could do nothing with them.

And so they took Jeremiah
and threw him into the cistern of Prince Malchiah,
which was in the quarters of the guard,
letting him down with ropes.

There was no water in the cistern, only mud,
and Jeremiah sank into the mud.

Ebed-melech, a court official,
went there from the palace and said to him:

*"My lord king,
these men have been at fault
in all they have done to the prophet Jeremiah,
casting him into the cistern.
He will die of famine on the spot,
for there is no more food in the city."*

Then the king ordered Ebed-melech the Cushite
to take three men along with him,
and draw the prophet Jeremiah out of the cistern before
he should die.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

READING 2

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus said to his disciples:

*"I have come to set the earth on fire,
and how I wish it were already blazing!*

*There is a baptism with which I must be baptized,
and how great is my anguish until it is accomplished!
Do you think that I have come
to establish peace on the earth?*

No, I tell you, but rather division.

*From now on a household of five will be divided,
three against two and two against three;*

*a father will be divided against his son
and a son against his father,*

*a mother against her daughter
and a daughter against her mother,*

*a mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law."*

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ

Luke, chapter 12