

Prayer Gathering for 34th Week of Ordinary Time

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

OPENING PRAYER

**Father of All... King of the Universe and All the Realms Beyond,
your coming among us as the Christ did not earn you a scepter and a throne,
but a cross and insulting, hateful shouts.
Help us bravely face the hardship that comes from following your Son
that we may also bask in the radiance of his glory.
We ask this in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ, our Lord. AMEN.**

READING

MOMENT FOR SILENCE

GOSPEL PASSAGE

SHARING QUESTIONS

"The LORD said to you, 'You shall shepherd my people Israel and shall be commander of Israel.'"
**When God calls someone to a leadership position, it is both an honor and a burden.
What is a prestigious position that brings honor, but that you would never seek because
of the burden it would bring? What leader do you pity because of that burden?"**

*"Let him save himself if he is the chosen one, the Christ of God.'
Even the soldiers jeered at him."*

**Jesus was beyond King David or some American president. He was the King of
Kings. What do you make of him being disrespected like this? How does it affect
the way you feel about the times you yourself have been disrespected?**

POSTED RECENTLY

**When you choose leadership
sometimes you choose
meaningful misery.**



DISCUSSION

*"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."
"Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."*

**What do you imagine heaven being like?
What images of heaven speak most to your heart?**

**What would the world be like if Jesus were *really* regarded by all as
the King of Kings?**

LITANY

I surrender my belief that I have all the answers...

...Lead me, Lord, and I will follow

I surrender my annoyance when life unfolds as it does...

...Lead me, Lord, and I will follow

I surrender my need to look like I have it all together...

...Lead me, Lord, and I will follow

I surrender rehearsing the litany of wrongs and unfairnesses done to me...

...Lead me, Lord, and I will follow

I surrender thinking I can make it without help...

...Lead me, Lord, and I will follow

I surrender thinking that it all depends on me...

...Lead me, Lord, and I will follow

I surrender thinking that I should quit when it stops being fun...

...Lead me, Lord, and I will follow

I surrender avoiding God's call because it seems too hard...

...Lead me, Lord, and I will follow

I surrender needing to understand...

...Lead me, Lord, and I will follow

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 second book of Samuel

In those days,
all the tribes of Israel came to David in Hebron
and said:

*"Here we are, your bone and your flesh.
In days past, when Saul was our king,
it was you who led the Israelites out
and brought them back.*

*And the LORD said to you,
'You shall shepherd my people Israel
and shall be commander of Israel.'"*

When all the elders of Israel came to David in Hebron,
King David made an agreement with them there
before the LORD,
and they anointed him king of Israel.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

READING 2

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

The rulers sneered at Jesus 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.

As they approached to offer him wine they called out,

"If you are King of the Jews, save yourself."

Above him there was an inscription that read,

"This is the King of the Jews."

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."*

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ

Luke, chapter 23