

## Prayer Gathering for Third Week of Ordinary Time

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

OPENING PRAYER

**Source of Our Life,  
you designed us for a particular purpose.  
You engineered us to make this world more the way you would have it.  
Speak your word to us in a way we can hear, call out to us in words we can understand,  
and make us brave enough to say “yes” to your every command.  
We ask this in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ, our Lord. AMEN.**

READING

MOMENT FOR SILENCE

GOSPEL PASSAGE

SHARING QUESTIONS

*“Anguish has taken wing, dispelled is darkness ... The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone.”*  
**Experiencing darkness helps us better appreciate light. What is the biggest moment of relief, or biggest moment of breakthrough, you ever experienced in your life?**

*“When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee.”*  
**The Gospel barely touches on this, but we hear that John the Baptist, one of Jesus’ biggest inspirations, has been arrested. What effect do you suspect this had on Jesus? How does this fact color this story for you?**

POSTED RECENTLY



God's calling requires action. When God calls you, he calls collect... you better be willing to accept the charges of your calling.

-Steve Maraboli

DISCUSSION

*“...At once they left their nets and followed him.”*  
*“He walked along from there and saw two other brothers... He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed him.”*  
**Peter, Andrew, James and John each had an immediate response to Jesus’ invitation. What do you make of that? What is the biggest decision you’ve ever made quickly? What caused you to act so decisively?**

## PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

That we may hear God's call and not allow anything to delay our response; we pray...

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

That those in political office may see their role as a sacred calling and not a means to domination; we pray...

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

That parents and all who are in pain because of the suffering of their loved ones will experience their prayers being answered; we pray...

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

That those in troubled marriages will turn to God in their distress and seek divine guidance; we pray...

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

That we will reduce our consumption and learn to "make due" as our ancestors did; we pray...

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all who are sick, including... ...and for doctors, nurses and healthcare workers; we pray...

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For our loved ones who have died... ...and for everyone grieving a loss... ...we pray...

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the needs we now share with our Creator in the silence of our hearts... ...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 prophet Isaiah

First the Lord degraded the land of Zebulun  
and the land of Naphtali;  
but in the end he has glorified the seaward road,  
the land west of the Jordan,  
the District of the Gentiles.

Anguish has taken wing, dispelled is darkness:  
for there is no gloom where but now there was distress.

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom  
a light has shone.

You have brought them abundant joy  
and great rejoicing,  
as they rejoice before you as at the harvest,  
as people make merry when dividing spoils.

For the yoke that burdened them,  
the pole on their shoulder,  
and the rod of their taskmaster  
you have smashed,  
as on the day of Midian.

The word of the Lord

*Thanks be to God*

## READING 2

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee.

He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum by the sea,  
in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali,  
that what had been said through Isaiah the prophet  
might be fulfilled:

*“Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,  
the way to the sea, beyond the Jordan,  
Galilee of the Gentiles,  
the people who sit in darkness have seen a great light,  
on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death  
light has arisen.”*

From that time on, Jesus began to preach and say,  
*“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”*

As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers,  
Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew,  
casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen.

He said to them,  
*“Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.”*  
At once they left their nets and followed him.

He walked along from there and saw two other brothers,  
James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John.  
They were in a boat, with their father Zebedee, mending their nets.

He called them,  
and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed him.

He went around all of Galilee,  
teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom,  
and curing every disease and illness among the people.

The Gospel of the Lord

*Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ*

*Matthew, chapter 4*