

## Prayer Gathering for Fourth Week of Ordinary Time

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

OPENING PRAYER

**God of the Oppressed,  
whose ways are not our ways...  
your Son called “blessed” things we consider cursed,  
and told us our greatest fears were doorways to faith.  
Help us to believe in the values he taught us to live  
and to trust your promise to see us through any challenge.  
We ask this in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ, our Lord. AMEN.**

READING

MOMENT FOR SILENCE

GOSPEL PASSAGE

SHARING QUESTIONS

*“I will leave as a remnant in your midst a people humble and lowly,  
who shall take refuge in the name of the LORD: the remnant of Israel.”*  
**Through the prophet, God promised to leave a minority community that would be  
known for their meekness and total dependance on God. Who would you say these  
people are today? Can we ever find them gathered together? If so, where?**

*“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.”*  
**Why do you suppose God values humility and lowliness? Who is the humblest  
person you know? What makes them so? Where did they learn to be humble?**

POSTED RECENTLY



DISCUSSION

*Blessed are...  
the poor in spirit... they who mourn... the meek... they who hunger and thirst for  
righteousness... the merciful... the clean of heart... the peacemakers... they who are  
persecuted for the sake of righteousness... you, when they insult you and persecute you  
and utter every kind of evil against you falsely...*  
**Which of these things that Jesus says are “a blessing” is the hardest for you to face?  
Why is he claiming as a blessing this thing (that you dread)?**

## LITANY

When I run clear out of answers and I'm in way over my head...

**...The last shall be first... the poor are blessed...**

When tears stream down my cheeks and my love has no place to go...

**...The last shall be first... the grieving are blessed...**

When I have no witty comeback to the disrespect I have endured...

**...The last shall be first... the meek are blessed...**

When colleagues pass me by as they cut corners to get ahead...

**...The last shall be first... the righteous are blessed...**

When I am well within my rights to give payback, but first ask: "What would Jesus do?"...

**...The last shall be first... the merciful are blessed...**

When people call me "Pollyanna" because my grandparent's values guide my way...

**...The last shall be first... the clean of heart are blessed...**

When yesterday's pain still stings and hurts me, but I seek harmony above revenge...

**...The last shall be first... the peacemakers are blessed...**

When being honest doesn't help me, when foes creep in on every side...

**...The last shall be first... the persecuted ones are blessed...**

When others make it their ambition to make my life a living hell...

**...The last shall be first... the ones who are bullied are blessed...**

## 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 Zephaniah

Seek the LORD,  
all you humble of the earth, who have observed his law;  
seek justice, seek humility;

perhaps you may be sheltered  
on the day of the LORD's anger.

But I will leave as a remnant in your midst  
a people humble and lowly,  
who shall take refuge in the name of the LORD:  
the remnant of Israel.

They shall do no wrong  
and speak no lies;

nor shall there be found in their mouths  
a deceitful tongue;

they shall pasture and couch their flocks  
with none to disturb them.

The word of the Lord

*Thanks be to God*

## READING 2

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him.

He began to teach them, saying:

*"Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*Blessed are they who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.*

*Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the land.*

*Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be satisfied.*

*Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.*

*Blessed are the clean of heart,  
for they will see God.*

*Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God.*

*Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you  
and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me.*

*Rejoice and be glad,  
for your reward will be great in heaven."*

The Gospel of the Lord

*Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ*

*Matthew, chapter 5*