

SMALL PRAYER GROUPS
Prayer Gathering for May 22

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

OPENING PRAYER

**God of the beginning and the end,
your Son told us that his peace was not like the peace that comes and goes;
that his peace would quiet our hearts and soothe our darkest fears.
Remove the blocks we place in the way of his peace
and lead us day by day toward the Kingdom you have prepared for us.
We ask this in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ, our Lord. AMEN.**

READING

MOMENT FOR SILENCE

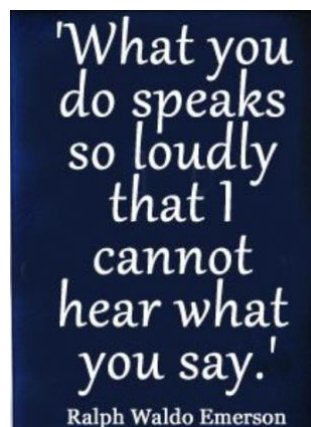
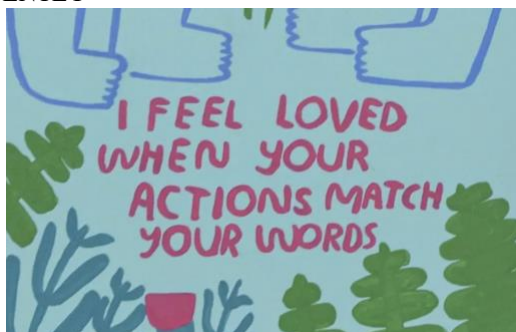
GOSPEL PASSAGE

SHARING QUESTIONS

“Unless you are circumcised according to the Mosaic practice, you cannot be saved.”
Over time, things that might seem non-critical to the core of faith can slowly creep into the center. What does this make you think of from our present day?

*“Not to place on you any burden beyond these necessities, namely,
to abstain from meat sacrificed to idols...
from blood, from meats of strangled animals... and from unlawful marriage.*
**This list of necessities in the moral life focuses on: (1) worship of God alone and no others; (2) no cruelty to living creatures; and (3) upright relationships.
What is the wisdom of these three groupings?**

POSTED RECENTLY



DISCUSSION

“Whoever loves me will keep my word... whoever does not love me does not keep my words.”
**How do you feel when you hear Jesus say this? What is it like to imagine Jesus saying:
“I feel loved when your actions match my words.”?**

*“My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you.
Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.”*

**What is the difference between the peace the world gives and the peace Jesus gives?
What examples come to mind?**

LITANY

When it feels like I need to fix everything that is broken and there's just too much to fix...

“Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid...”

When I'm trying hard to please them all, but it never fully works...

“Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid...”

When I've given all I can to this and I see not what's “right” but just what's “wrong”...

“Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid...”

When I took a risk or made a leap but it seems it may not work...

“Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid...”

When I work and work but still can't earn enough to make me feel secure...

“Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid...”

When I lay awake and ask, “what if?” to each scenario...

“Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid...”

When I worry that my happiest days are the ones already past...

“Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid...”

When dread seeps in and makes me think I can't rise to meet life's next challenge...

“Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid...”

You say it once... and then again. Lord, your peace is all I need.

“Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid...”

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:

Some who had come down from Judea were instructing the brothers,
“Unless you are circumcised according to the Mosaic practice,
you cannot be saved.”

It was decided that Paul, Barnabas, and some of the others
should go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders
about this question.

The apostles and elders, in agreement with the whole church,
decided to choose representatives
and to send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas.

[When they returned] this is the letter delivered by them:

*“[We] the apostles and the elders, your brothers,
to the brothers in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia
of Gentile origin: greetings.*

*Since we have heard that some of our number
who went out without any mandate from us
have upset you with their teachings
and disturbed your peace of mind,*

*we have with one accord decided to choose representatives
and to send them to you
along with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,
So we are sending Judas and Silas
who will also convey this same message by word of mouth:*

*‘It is the decision of the Holy Spirit and of us
not to place on you any burden beyond these necessities,
namely, to abstain from meat sacrificed to idols,
from blood, from meats of strangled animals,
and from unlawful marriage.
If you keep free of these,
you will be doing what is right. Farewell.’”*

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

READING 2

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:

*“Whoever loves me will keep my word,
and my Father will love him,
and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him.*

*Whoever does not love me does not keep my words;
yet the word you hear is not mine
but that of the Father who sent me.*

*“I have told you this while I am with you.
The Advocate, the Holy Spirit,
whom the Father will send in my name,
will teach you everything
and remind you of all that I told you.*

*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.
Not as the world gives do I give it to you.
Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.*

*You heard me tell you,
‘I am going away and I will come back to you.’*

*...And now I have told you this before it happens,
so that when it happens you may believe.”*

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ

John, chapter 14