

Prayer Gathering for Third Week of Easter

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

OPENING PRAYER

**God of Love,
Every moment of your Son's life revealed the depth of your care for us.
His death destroyed our death, and his resurrection gave us new life.
Help us prepare for heaven's eternal feast of life and light
by filling each day of our life with opportunities to live fully your law of love.
We ask this in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ, our Lord. AMEN.**

READING

MOMENT FOR SILENCE

GOSPEL PASSAGE

SHARING QUESTIONS

"We gave you strict orders, did we not, to stop teaching in that name?"
... *"They left the presence of the Sanhedrin, rejoicing that they had been found worthy to suffer dishonor for the sake of the name."*

When have you had to deal with someone's disapproval for loving or standing up for someone else? When have you encountered disapproval for your faith?

*"So they cast [the net]... and were not able to pull it in because of the number of fish.
... "The disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord.'"*

When you place yourself in this scene, how do you imagine the "disciple whom Jesus loved" telling Peter "It is the Lord"?

Is it a whisper? Shouted? Said confidently? Timidly? ...Share why.

POSTED RECENTLY

We assume others
show love the same
way we do — and
if they don't, we
worry it's not there.

People may
not tell you how
they feel about
you, but they
always show you.
Pay attention.

DISCUSSION

*"When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he tucked in his garment,
for he was lightly clad, and jumped into the sea."*

When Peter hears that the stranger was Jesus, he spontaneously jumped into the water and paddled toward him. What do you think of this? What does it say about Peter? The other Apostles stayed in the boat. Does this say that they love Jesus less than Peter?

If you had been in the boat that day, what would you have done?

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

That all of us may grow in our love of our Creator; we pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That all heads of state and leaders of industry may work together to protect creation's assets and wisely steward God's natural resources; we pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That all tyrants may repent for their sins against peace and global unity; we pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That all victims of abuse and assault may find healing through the care of others; we pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That our society will obey Christ's command to protect the vulnerable and support those in need; we pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That all who are lonely will find companionship in our community and comfort in the teachings of Christ; we pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who are sick... who are in chronic pain... who feel overwhelmed by the challenges of aging; we pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That, when our time is full, God may beckon us to the feast of heaven alongside all of our beloved dead whom we now remember... ..we pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all the prayers we offer to God in silence... ..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 Acts of the Apostles:

When the captain and the court officers
had brought the apostles in
and made them stand before the Sanhedrin,
the high priest questioned them,

*“We gave you strict orders, did we not,
to stop teaching in that name?
Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching
and want to bring this man’s blood upon us.”*

But Peter and the apostles said in reply,

*“We must obey God rather than men.
The God of our ancestors raised Jesus,
though you had him killed by hanging him on a tree.
God exalted him at his right hand as leader and savior
to grant Israel repentance and forgiveness of sins.
We are witnesses of these things,
as is the Holy Spirit
whom God has given to those who obey him.”*

The Sanhedrin ordered the apostles
to stop speaking in the name of Jesus... and dismissed them.

So they left the presence of the Sanhedrin,
rejoicing that they had been found worthy
to suffer dishonor for the sake of the name.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

READING 2

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

At that time, Jesus revealed himself to his disciples at the Sea of Tiberias...

Together were Simon Peter, Thomas called Didymus, Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, Zebedee's sons, and two others of his disciples.

Simon Peter said to them, *"I am going fishing."*
They said to him, *"We also will come with you."*
So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

When it was already dawn, Jesus was standing on the shore;
but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.

Jesus said to them, *"Children, have you caught anything to eat?"*
They answered him, *"No."*
So he said to them,
"Cast the net over the right side of the boat and you will find something."
So they cast it... and were not able to pull it in because of the number of fish.

So the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, *"It is the Lord."*

When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord,
he tucked in his garment, for he was lightly clad, and jumped into the sea.

The other disciples came in the boat,
for they were not far from shore, only about a hundred yards,
dragging the net with the fish.

When they climbed out on shore,
they saw a charcoal fire with fish on it and bread.

Jesus said to them, *"Bring some of the fish you just caught."*

So Simon Peter went over and dragged the net ashore
full of one hundred fifty-three large fish.
Even though there were so many, the net was not torn.

Jesus said to them, *"Come, have breakfast."*
And none of the disciples dared to ask him, *"Who are you?"*
because they realized it was the Lord.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ

John, chapter 21