

# Liturgy Alive of Feria

## Opening Prayer

Our Father in heaven,  
you let the sun shine and the rain come down  
on good and bad alike.  
Keep us from classifying people  
and issuing condemnations lightly.  
May we rather learn from your Son  
to appreciate the good done by anyone,  
whether one of us in the Church or not,  
and to be united with anyone  
who seeks truth, peace, and justice.  
For these are the works of the Holy Spirit  
of you, our Father, and of your Son,  
Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**First Reading Introduction:** Those who love her the Lord loves.

The search for wisdom, says Ben Sirach, must be one of the main tasks of a person, for this search is a sign that one loves life. But God is a part of this search, for God blesses those who seek wisdom.

**Gospel Introduction:** Whoever is not against us is for us.

“He or she is not one of us” becomes easily an excuse for denying or belittling the good done by others, especially if they are not Catholics. Remember how before Vatican II the Church spoke of Protestants, communists, and socialists... Even today, there is a certain hesitancy to recognize the good done by people “who do not belong.” And Vatican II asked us not to think merely of our inner Church interests, for it gave us the pastoral document on The Church in the Modern World. Jesus appreciated whatever good done by anyone, whether belonging to the group or not.

## General Intercessions

- For the Church we love, that it may bring forgiveness and love to all, welcome all, care for all, inspire all with the gentle power of the Holy Spirit, we pray:
- For lawmakers, that the Spirit may prompt them to make good laws that are fair to all, we pray:
- For outcasts and victims of discrimination, that our communities may accept them fully and make our love so spontaneous and warm that they feel accepted, we pray:

## Prayer over the Gifts

Lord our God,  
your Son ate with sinners and tax collectors  
while the devout people of his time  
blamed both him and the weak.  
Accept us at his table and teach us not to exclude anyone

with a “holier-than-you” attitude.  
Do not allow us to condemn  
those who are different or act differently,  
but make us accept them as you accept us  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

### **Prayer after Communion**

God our Father,  
you have given us the privilege  
to hear the word of your Son and to share his table,  
not because we are better than others  
but simply because you are good.  
Do not allow us to become hard  
or to look down with pride on others  
but keep reminding us  
that we are in constant need of conversion  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

### **Blessing**

We should learn to appreciate whatever good is done by whatever person. The Spirit inspires many people to do good in a variety of ways. Good for them! May Almighty God bless them and you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.