

# **Liturgy Alive of Solemnity of the Most SACRED HEART of JESUS**

## **Greeting (See Second Reading)**

God loved us before we could love him.  
He sent us his Son as our Savior  
and let us share in his Holy Spirit.  
May this love always be with you.

## **Introduction by the Celebrant**

When we celebrate the feast of the Sacred Heart or whenever we honor the Heart of Jesus, we celebrate the love of God that he showed us in his Son. On his own initiative, God, the source and origin of all genuine love, seeks us out and gives himself to us. Who are open to his love? Not the self-satisfied and the self-sufficient, for they don't need God or people. They cannot accept love. But the weak and the humble can: they are aware of the poverty of their love; they know that they are vulnerable and fragile. God seeks our response of love. This answer must necessarily include that we show to those around us a bit of the warmth of God's love. We should let people come to us as Christ let them come to him to lighten their burden.

## **Penitential Act**

How much are we open to God's love?  
How much are we willing  
to give love to others and receive it from them?  
Before celebrating this eucharist  
let us ask these questions  
in the presence of God and of one another.

(pause)

Lord, we are often so full of ourselves  
that we pay no attention to your love.  
Lord, have mercy. R/ Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, we somehow feel annoyed  
when people try to help us,  
for it reminds us that we are not self-sufficient.  
Christ, have mercy. R/ Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, we often have no time for people  
because we have no time for you.  
Lord, have mercy. R/ Lord, have mercy.  
May almighty God have mercy on us,  
forgive us our sins against love,  
and bring us to everlasting life. R/ Amen.

## **Opening Prayer**

Let us thank God our Father

for the love he has shown us  
In the heart of his Son  
(pause)  
God with a heart,  
you have made your love visible  
in your Son, a man like us except for sin,  
and through him  
you have bound yourself to us  
by a bond of faithful love.

Accept our thanks  
and help us to reflect a bit on your own love,  
that like you and Jesus we may not be afraid  
of showing affection and concern  
and of rendering generous service  
even if it is inconvenient to do so.  
We ask you this through Christ our Lord.

**First Reading Introduction:** God's Initiative of Love

This is the basic truth: the initiative of love comes from God. His love is gratuitous and faithful. The people of God are called to give a grateful and free response of love to God.

**Second Reading Introduction:** God Loved Us First

John's first letter echoes and deepens the Old Testament message: All love comes from God, for God is love. His love commits us to one another. If we do not love one another, God's love cannot be in us.

**Gospel Introduction:** Only the Humble Are Open to the Humble Jesus

Who understand and accept Jesus and his good news of love? Not the self-sufficient and the proud, who rely on their own achievements, but the humble, who are aware of the poverty of their own hearts.

**General Intercessions**

Let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ, to whose dedicated love there are no limits, and let us say: R/  
Lord, keep us in your love.

- Lord, we pray you for your Church. Let it be a community where people find one another and commit themselves to one another, we pray: R/ Lord, keep us in your love.
- Lord, we pray you for all those whose task it is to proclaim your gospel. May they speak your word as good news of love and joy for all people, we pray: R/ Lord, keep us in your love.
- Lord, we pray you for all those who are lonely and lack direction in life. May they encounter people who bring them light and love, we pray: R/ Lord, keep us in your love.
- Lord, we pray you for all those who have shut up themselves within walls of superiority, pride or hatred. Touch them with your Spirit of love, that they may become open again to people and learn again to appreciate, serve and love, we pray: R/ Lord, keep us in your love.
- Lord, we pray you for our families, that all those living under the same roof may share each other's joys and sorrows, be patient with one another and live for one another, we pray: R/ Lord, keep us in

your love.

Hear our prayer, Lord, and give us a heart for one another, that we may build community and live in your love, now and for ever. R/ Amen.

### **Prayer over the Gifts**

Lord our God,  
your son Jesus gave himself totally for you  
and he gives himself now to us  
in this eucharistic celebration.  
May we learn from him  
to help others carry their burdens  
and to bring out the best in them,  
and may our love be  
as faithful and gratuitous as his,  
that he may live among us  
now and for ever.

### **Introduction to the Eucharistic Prayer**

It is a grace for us that we can join Jesus our Lord in gratitude to the Father for all God's love.

### **Introduction to the Lord's Prayer**

Let us pray to God our Father,  
the source and power of all love,  
in the words of Jesus our Lord:

### **Deliver Us**

Deliver us, Lord, from every evil  
and keep us free from sin  
by which we refuse to give you  
a response of grateful love.  
Give us the peace that comes  
from living in your friendship  
and help us to work steadily  
for the growth of your kingdom  
of love and justice,  
that we may prepare the full coming among us  
of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

### **Invitation to Communion**

This is Jesus the Lord,

the Son of the living and loving God,  
who showed us how much God loves us.  
Through him we have come to believe  
that God is near to us  
Happy are we to receive him.

### **Prayer after Communion**

Lord our God,  
your love beat in a human heart  
when your Son lived among people  
and was one of us.  
Help us to become one with him  
and give us hearts as wise as his.  
And may we prefer, as he did,  
those who are loved least  
and therefore need it most,  
that we may bring to them a bit of your warmth  
and love in them him who is our Lord  
now and for ever. R/ Amen.

### **Blessing**

As God loved us before we could love him, let our Christian living be a hymn of gratitude to his initiative of love. Let us ask God to bless us and to fill the poverty of our love. May the God of love bless you all: the Father who is the source of love, the Son who lived love unto death, the Spirit who makes love perfect. R/ Amen.

Let us go in peace to make God's love visible in this world, that we may truly know and love God. R/  
Thanks be to God.