

# Liturgy Alive of 23th Sunday in Ordinary Time

## Greeting

Jesus tells us today:

Where two or three have come together in my name,  
there I am among them.  
We are here in his name  
and so he is among us.  
May he always stay with you.

*R/ And also with you.*

### Introduction by the Celebrant

If we really are the Church, we are a community around Christ and we are brothers and sisters to one another. That means: we love one another, we accept and serve one another so much that we also have the courage to correct one another when our brother or sister errs. He or she is my concern because that person is my brother or

sister. Let us pray with the Lord Jesus here among us that we may have that courage, and that our brothers or sisters may accept the help we offer to set them free.

### Penitential Act

Do we love enough the Lord and one another,  
and the community of the Lord,  
to help one another when one goes astray?  
Let us examine ourselves before the Lord.  
*(PAUSE)*  
Lord Jesus, you hold us responsible  
for a brother or sister who errs:  
Lord, have mercy. *R/ Lord, have mercy.*

Jesus Christ, you hold us responsible  
for the unity and integrity of the Church:  
Christ, have mercy. *R/ Christ, have mercy.*

Lord Jesus, you hold us responsible  
for reconciliation not only in the Church  
but even in the world at large:  
Lord, have mercy. *R/ Lord, have mercy.*

Have mercy on us, Lord.  
Make us aware of our own weakness  
and give us the courage to help those who err.

Lead us all to everlasting life. *R/ Amen.*

### Opening Prayer

Let us pray to God our Father  
that we may sustain one another on the way to him  
*(PAUSE)*  
Lord God, our Father,  
your Son Jesus Christ has brought us together  
as a community of sinners who know  
that you have pardoned us.  
When our weaknesses threaten our unity,  
remind us of our responsibility for one another.  
Let your unifying Spirit give us the strength  
to care for one another  
and to do all we can to remain  
a living, forgiving and welcoming community  
where we keep meeting in the name of Jesus,  
that he may be always with us,

now and for ever. *R/ Amen.*

### Liturgy of the Word

**First Reading Introduction: A guard of one's brothers and sisters**

Like a watchman on the look-out for the enemy, the prophet must warn his people against evil and every Christian must warn his or her neighbor.

**Second Reading Introduction: Love sums up all the commandments**

Love one another as you love yourself. If you do this, says St Paul, you have fulfilled the law. For love is the motive and the spirit of all the commandments.

**Gospel Introduction: Help those who err**

A Christian sense of responsibility for one another demands that, with firmness yet love, we help those who err. If one does not succeed, let the community help, for the Church should be a place of reconciliation.

**General Intercessions**

Jesus tells us today: If two of you agree to ask something, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. So we pray together to our Father, and we say: **R/ Lord we are certain you will hear us.**

- For the Church of Jesus Christ, that it may always be a place of reconciliation and the guardian of life and of all that is good; that its leaders too may always have the courage to call evil by its name, let us pray: **R/ Lord we are certain you will hear us.**
- For all those whom God has entrusted to one another: our Christian families, our towns and cities, people who work together, and all communities, that love may inspire us to deal with one another with frankness and honesty, let us pray: **R/ Lord we are certain you will hear us.**
- For all those who suffer from violence and injustice, from prejudice, discrimination and hatred, that they may not become bitter, and that the victims of these forms of violence may still be capable of forgiving wholeheartedly, let us pray: **R/ Lord we are certain you will hear us.**
- For us here in this community, that we may not condemn or write off one another but learn to bear each other's shortcomings and to protect each other's reputation, let us pray: **R/ Lord we are certain you will hear us.**

God our Father, with your Son among us we pray: help us to believe in the goodness of each person and to be patient with one another, as you have been good to us through Jesus Christ our Lord. *R/ Amen.*

**Prayer over the Gifts**

God our Father,  
you bring together at the table of your Son  
the weak with the strong,  
the sick with the healthy.  
Let your Son fill us here  
with the fullness of his presence,  
that we may accept one another  
and learn to live with each other.  
We offer you our good will  
and ask you for the strength  
to welcome one another

in Christ Jesus our Lord. *R/ Amen.*

**Introduction to the Eucharistic Prayer**

We remember how the Father sent us Jesus his Son when, by committing sin, we had broken our friendship with God. Jesus shed his blood to bring us back to the Father. Let us thank God for his love.

**Invitation to the Lord's Prayer**

With Jesus present in our midst,  
we pray with him the prayer  
which he taught us.

*: R/ Our Father...*

**Deliver Us**

Deliver us, Lord, from every evil  
and grant us the inner peace  
which comes from doing your will  
even when it is hard to do so.  
Keep us free from discouragement  
and help us to spare no effort  
in bringing your love and healing to all.  
Lead us forward in joyful hope  
toward the full coming  
of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

*R/ For the kingdom.*

#### **Prayer for Peace**

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles:  
I leave you peace, my peace I give you.  
Look not on your sins,  
but on the faith of your Church,  
and help us too not to tie our brothers and sisters  
to their sins and past mistakes.  
Grant us the peace and unity of your kingdom  
where you live for ever and ever. *R/ Amen.*

The peace of the Lord be with you always. *R/ And also with you.*

Let us express now in our greeting of peace  
how we want to be with one another

honest, forgiving and helping. *R/ Amen.*

#### **Invitation to Communion**

This is Jesus, the Lamb of God,  
who takes away the sins of the world  
and who shed his blood on the cross for us.  
Happy are we to be invited  
to his meal of reconciling love.

*R/ Lord, I am not worthy...*

#### **Prayer after Communion**

God our Father,  
your Son has been in our midst  
and he has strengthened us with his body and blood.  
He made our wounds of sin his wounds  
and healed them.  
Let the wounds of our brothers and sisters  
become ours, their joys our happiness.  
Let your Son teach us the art  
of bringing those who err back to you  
and into our communities  
without embittering or humiliating them,  
without any feeling of superiority,  
but simply because they are our brothers and sisters  
and you have been good to us

in Jesus Christ our Lord. *R/ Amen.*

#### **Blessing**

With Jesus among us,  
at least when we are aware he is with us,  
we can make our community  
a place where we can speak freely to each other  
and help those in trouble  
to keep them in the community  
or to win them back  
and offer them new chances.  
For we know that we are responsible for one another.  
May God give us this openness and courage  
and bless you all:

the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. *R/ Amen.*

May God be with you

and keep you in his love. *R/ Thanks be to God.*

