

# Liturgy Alive of Wednesday, Twenty-third Week in Ordinary Time

## Opening Prayer

Lord, God of the rich and the poor,  
let the message of Jesus your Son  
strike us and shake us up  
from our certainties and securities.

Indeed, may we use our riches  
of mind and heart and faith and goods  
in the service of the poor,  
our power for the benefit of others,  
our abundance to be shared  
and to get us out of our self-satisfaction,  
our happiness to console  
and bring your joy, not ours.

Make us poor in pride, hungry for justice,  
weeping for the evil we have caused.  
And let people insult us  
when we do not live up to the gospel

of Jesus Christ our Lord.

### Liturgy of the Word

#### First Reading Introduction

The Christian who has been baptized has received a new life from God and is a new person, re-created in Christ. What we are now we have received. From now on we must live not in our merely human world of thought and action, but in the new world of Christ. This is not easy to do. This new life in Christ is to be rebuilt constantly.

It is a task that never ends.

## Gospel Introduction

Luke is the only evangelist coming from paganism - a world of slavery, fear and oppression, and of moral license. He is so struck by the fact that Christ had a place for the poor and for marginal people, for whom nobody cared in his milieu, that this concern of Christ is one of the major emphases in his gospel, particularly in its social aspects. For example, he says, not like Matthew, "Blessed are the poor in spirit," but "Blessed are you, the poor. Woe to you, the rich..."

## General Intercessions

- For the poor, that God may fill their expectations; for the satisfied, that God may change their hearts and make them capable of sharing, we pray:

- For those who are hungry, that the Lord himself may give them the bread of life and inspire us to give them the bread of every day, we pray:

- For those who now weep, that the Lord may console them with his love; for those who now laugh, that he may remind them of the seriousness of life and make them capable of reflection, we pray:

### Prayer over the Gifts

God, with bread and wine  
we celebrate the death and suffering  
of your Son Jesus Christ.  
Teach us here, by his example,  
that sickness and pain make sense,  
that even death is a seed of life.  
In humility and with shame  
we accept this insight, Lord,  
and ask you to let it inspire us.  
May we accept it also  
as a hard but saving reality,

by which we try to live, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Prayer after Communion**

Lord our God,

you let the Word of your Son upset us,  
but this eucharist gives us the strength  
to take his word with open hearts and minds.  
Let our riches in any form  
not satisfy us but others,  
that there may be room in us for hope.  
Let us feel the weight of our limitations,  
that we may keep hungering  
for love and justice and freedom.  
Give us tears to weep  
that we have not dared to be  
your sign of contradiction in this world.  
Bless us, Lord, that we may praise and bless you

and your Son, now and for ever.

**Blessing**

Blessed are you... What God wants is our happiness. He leaves us free: we are the ones to make the choice what we are going to do with our lives. May God give you the right insight and bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.