

Liturgy Alive of St. Francis of Assisi

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Memorial

October 4

Introduction

We speak much today of poverty and of returning to the true values of the Gospel. What St. Francis of Assisi (1181/82-1226) undertook in the 13th century might very well inspire our times. Today's society threatens to destroy itself in many parts of the world by its own philosophy and prosperity; even in developing countries,

artificial needs are forced on people, to the loss of the deeper values of God and people. What we need is not only talk about poverty and evangelical living, but responsible Christian living according to the values of the Gospel.

Opening Prayer

Lord our God,
it is a pleasure for us to celebrate today
your gentle and loveable saint,
Francis of Assisi.
Let us go through life like him
one with you, one with nature,
one with all that is good and kind-hearted.
Make us humble and peaceful like him.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

Gospel Introduction

A hospitable family or person makes guests feel at home and gives them the best available. But if we are truly hospitable we are also listening to the guest and to receive from him or her perhaps more than we give and in a deeper way. We receive the guest as a person. God presents himself in the Bible as a traveler on a journey. He asks for hospitality as a stranger or a poor person. Christ also says that in the homeless we welcome him.

Prayer over the Gifts

Our mighty God,
you are partial to the poor.
From your own gifts,
we bring before you bread and wine.
Make us as genuine and simple
as these offerings,
that we may understand readily
the simple story of your forgiveness and love,
which you tell us through your Son.

Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Prayer after Communion

Lord of heaven and earth,
we thank you in the poverty of our hearts,
that you have let us eat from Jesus' table
notwithstanding our inadequate faith
and our lukewarm love.
Keep accepting us in our weakness as we are,
help us to be and to do better
and to render wholehearted service
to our brothers and sisters in need.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord.