

Liturgy Alive of Feria

Opening Prayer

Lord, our God,
Jesus touched the dead and unclean lepers
to raise them to life and to heal them.
Let us not be afraid
of dirtying our hands to help people
but of soiling our tongues to tell lies
and to besmear the good name
of our brothers and sisters,
to quarrel with them and to hurt them.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Introduction

What really matters for us, what makes us what we should be, is faith. "The one who is righteous will live by faith." Faith will make us live. But for Paul too faith is not just a belief in tenets. Faith expresses itself in deeds.

Gospel Introduction

In today's gospel Jesus reacts against pious Jews who stress the observance of the externals - laws, rules, customs - without inspiration and motivation from inside. Most probably the Pharisees were sincere in practicing these outward regulations, but they easily gave the ones practicing them the conviction of saving themselves through them. In fact, in today's world too externals count heavily. People buy things for their wrappings. Appearances are often all that matters... It is not the shining cup that matters but the contents. Indeed, the contents must be first-rate.

General Intercessions

- That the People of God, its leaders and members, may never put the law above people but always practice the great commandment of loving God in one another, we pray:

- That priests and religious make the poverty and love of Christ visible in them, so that their teaching may be credible, we pray:

- That our communities may be strong and faithful witnesses in our world for the truth, honesty and authenticity, we pray:

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord our God,
you look into our hearts
and you invite us to come to the table of Jesus
and to worship you with him
in spirit and in truth.
Let there be no pretence in us,
no mere outward display,
no attempt to impress people
as to how good and religious we are.
Make us honest with you and ourselves

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayer after Communion

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
this eucharist has been for us

an occasion of reflection
on the way we live our faith.
Let the word of Jesus echo in us
that we do not save ourselves
by our own practices,
but that we owe everything to you.
Accept our thanks and love
that all we are and have
we have received from you

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Blessing

What is inside us? God knows, and I hope each of us knows too. May the Lord love what he sees, and may almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.