

# **Liturgy Alive of Thursday of the Sixteenth Week in Ordinary Time**

## **Thursday, 16th Week in Ordinary Time**

### **HARDEN NOT YOUR HEARTS**

#### **Opening Prayer**

God, you care for us.  
your Son Jesus, told us this in wonderful stories  
about your forgiveness, your love, and your patient mercy.  
Do not allow us to be so fickle or indifferent  
that we close our eyes and ears to them,  
but make us see and hear with our hearts  
that these simple stories are speaking  
of the very meaning of our lives.  
Count us among the simple people  
who understand what you are telling us  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

#### **Liturgy of the Word**

##### **Introduction to the First Reading:**

Jeremiah reminds God's people that in their youth, after God had made a covenant with them, they had been faithful and fervent. But since then they have abandoned God, even the priests and the prophets had done so.

##### **Gospel Introduction:**

Jesus complains that there are some who close their hearts to his message of life. His message is simple. Much of it is told in the moving stories of the parables. Why don't people understand them? They are fickle and busy with themselves and their own little affairs. Or they think they are too learned and too self-sufficient, above the little ones, the humble, the simple people; these are eager to be receptive of the word of God and to pay attention to it.

##### **General Intercessions**

- For those who are not moved by the word of God, that the Church may hear their silent yearning and speak the word in such a way that makes them see that it pertains to their life and happiness today, we pray:
- For those who remain deaf to the word of God, that they may be moved when they see it flowering and bearing fruit in the life of good Christians, we pray:
- For the sick, the lonely, those who suffer or mourn, that the word of God may bring them consolation, give them the courage to bear their pain and to keep hoping in a loving God, we pray:

**Prayer over the Gifts**

Lord our God,  
we are ready to listen to the secrets  
of the kingdom of heaven.  
We bring before you  
these simple offerings of bread and wine.  
Let them express that we want  
to be open to these secrets with unsophisticated hearts,  
for you reveal yourself  
to those who listen with their hearts.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Prayer after Communion**

Lord our God,  
make us attentive to the words  
Jesus has spoken to us at his table  
and keep stirring in us the love he has shown us.  
Let our faith be more  
than formulas that do not change life.  
Make the story of our life speak to those around us  
that we have understood how much you care  
and respond to you with all that is in us,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Blessing**

"Blessed are your eyes for they see and your ears for they hear." Listen to the Lord with your hearts,  
with the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.