

# Liturgy Alive of Feria

## Opening Prayer

Lord God, you are pure grace.  
You fill with your forgiveness and life  
those who recognize their own emptiness  
and the need for your mercy.  
Grant us not to call attention  
to ourselves and the good you allow us to do  
but to serve you and people  
in the unsophisticated simplicity of our hearts  
and to give all glory and honor to you  
for the life and grace you bring us

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## Introduction to the First Reading

Before the exile, Ezekiel had warned the people against the punishment awaiting them. When the exile had come, he consoles them and gives them the prospect that God will live again among his people with all his glory.

## Introduction to Gospel Reading

The Lord abhors duplicity and hypocrisy, particularly in religious leaders. The scribes had rendered a real service by becoming the teachers of Israel during the exile, when the priesthood was on the decline, but later they had gradually turned religious living into a complicated intellectualistic, legalistic and casuistic system of observances, which they themselves did not fully practice. It had become the pride and boast of the pious Pharisees to observe them all and in this way to work their own salvation. On account of this pride, they lacked the true spirit and humility of openness to God's plans.

## General Intercessions

- For the People of God, that with courage and honesty we may take to heart the task of renewal and reconciliation, so as to show to the world of today the true face of Christ, we pray:

- For all who seek God with a sincere heart, for all who search for truth and justice, that their hunger may be satisfied, we pray:

- For all Christian communities, that we may be reliable and truthful with one another and that our unity and friendship may be genuine, we pray:

## Prayer over the Gifts

Lord God, merciful Father,  
in these simple signs of bread and wine  
you give us the servant of all,  
your Son Jesus Christ.  
Fill us with his Spirit  
of unpretentious service.  
Help us to recognize him  
as our only source of truth and life,  
that you may be our only God and Father

now and for ever.

**Prayer after Communion**

Lord God,

we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ.  
He was straightforward  
in all he said and did;  
he practiced the message he brought to others  
and it cost him his life.  
Help us to believe his good news  
with the whole of our being  
and to live by it day after day  
in simple sincerity, without any display.  
May you thus recognize  
the love of your Son present in us  
  
and give us a share in your happiness for ever.

**Blessing**

We believe in Jesus and in his gospel. Let our lives not contradict our faith, but let our lives tell the story of that faith, with the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.