

# Liturgy Alive of Feria

## Opening Prayer

Lord our God,  
we are your work of art.  
When we were vowed to death through sin,  
you called us to life  
through the death of your Son.  
God, open us to your love and life  
given for free as a gift  
without charge or regret  
and give us thankful hearts.  
May we learn from you and your Son  
to place ourselves in the service  
of our brothers and sisters,  
  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

## Liturgy of the Word

### First Reading Introduction

Ephesians gives us the very fundamental message of our gratuitous salvation by the death and resurrection of Christ. Life, real life, comes through him. We have not done anything to deserve it and we can't do anything to merit it. All we are, we are by the grace of God. It goes perhaps against the grain of our human thinking, but we are dependent beings, a gift from God living by the gifts of God. And yet, this should not be humiliating, for it is in accordance with our human nature. We are dependent, yes, but we are loved—and this is what changes everything.

# Gospel Introduction

When Jesus speaks out against the rich, he does not intend to condemn them but to liberate them. What he denounces is not the fact that they have material goods, but their own attachment to them and the use they make of their riches: for hoarding, for selfish enjoyment, or - as some rich countries do - stockpiling wheat in silos or using oil for economic and political pressure. The value of possessions is relative to the goods of the kingdom, to justice and love. What counts is to be rich and wise before God.

# General Intercessions

- For grateful hearts, that we can thank God for changing us from strangers to him into his sons and daughters in Christ, we pray:
  - For loving hearts, that God has brought us peace with himself, with one another, and even with ourselves, we pray:
- For wide-open hearts, with which we can love the many brothers and sisters God's grace has given us in the Church, we pray:

## Prayer over the Gifts

Lord our God,  
you let us use these offerings  
as gifts from your hands  
to eat and drink the life of your Son.  
Confirm us in your grace  
without any claim to our own merits  
and let the Spirit of Jesus help us  
to live the good life of your Son,  
which you had meant us to live  
from the beginning and for ever.  
We ask you this  
  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## Prayer after Communion

Lord our God,  
what else can we do  
than give you thanks and praise  
for speaking to us through Jesus  
and strengthening us

with his bread of life?  
May what we say and do  
and all of our lives  
be a gift to those around  
and an act of gratitude to you.

our God, for ever and ever.

#### **Blessing**

All is grace, all is a gift freely given. Even the use of our talents and our work is God's gift. Let us also give freely to our neighbor, like our love to the people close to us, but also our help to people who suffer, even if far away from us. And may Almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.