

# Liturgy Alive of Feria

## Opening Prayer

Lord God,  
source and model of all love,  
you cause the paths of life  
of men and women to cross  
and to discover one another  
as partners in life.  
May their love be genuine and creative  
and strong enough to survive  
the differences and trials  
that are part of life.  
Let it be patient, understanding,  
forgiving and lasting,  
as is the love that you have shown us

in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

## Liturgy of the Word

### First Reading Introduction

Each sacrament is a sharing in the paschal mystery of Christ, a dying and rising in the new life of Christ. So is marriage. Genuine love in marriage is a reflection of Christ's love—with each partner living the life of Christ, dying to selfishness, rising to deeper, creative and serving love. Ephesians says that the marriage covenant reflects the love of God for his people and at the same time, the love of Christ for his Church. Then, under the influence of the socio-cultural thinking and structures of his time, he continues to draw a parallel between Christ as head of his Church and the husband as the head of his wife and the family, a parallel which is hard to accept in contemporary thought.

# Gospel Introduction

The kingdom of God must grow among us, like a seed growing into a tree, like flour transformed into bread by the yeast. But growth means change and going ahead, marching forward, and this cannot happen without change and saying goodbye to the past and even to the present, to walk forward in hope toward the future. This brings the pain of separation, of giving up something familiar, but also the joy of knowing that we are on the way with the Lord.

# General Intercessions

— For the Church, the bride of Christ, that she may always be faithful to the message of the Gospel and the liberating love of Christ, we pray:  
— For homes built on unselfish love, that through them, we may understand better all the depth of God's love, we pray:

— For the young preparing for marriage, that they may learn from life that the depth and beauty of love rest on generosity and sharing, we pray:

## Prayer over the Gifts

Lord our God,  
bread tastes good  
and wine rejoices  
when they are shared  
as signs of friendship and love.  
Break for us the bread of life  
and pour for us the wine of happiness  
of Jesus, your Son,  
that your people may bear together  
the burdens of life  
and share its joys

by the strength of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

## Prayer after Communion

Our God and Father,  
you have renewed in this Eucharist  
your covenant of love with your people.

In the name of this covenant, we ask of you:  
let all love among us  
and the union of marriage  
between husbands and wives  
reflect a bit the tender warmth,  
the respect and the inventive ways  
of your love for us.

Keep loving us in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

#### **Blessing**

Marriage is a great mystery of love. Love is not mere sentiments, not just feelings, but the giving of oneself. It is patterned after the love of Christ, who gave himself and did not measure his love. He simply gave himself to us. May our married couples also give themselves to one another and to their children, with the blessing of

Almighty God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.