

Liturgy Alive of Feria

Opening Prayer

God of mercy and compassion,
you know how often our fervor cools off,
how poor of heart we are at times
when we think we are rich
and sure to belong to you.
Let us encounter your Son again
in the deepest of our selves,
help us to look for him,
that his presence may change us
and that he may live among us.

We ask you this through Christ our Lord.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Introduction

John reprimands the Christians of Sardis and Laodicea that they have abandoned their earlier fervor and are in need of conversion. Note the harsh words to the Laodiceans who are neither cold nor hot but only lukewarm: "I will spit you out of my mouth."

Gospel Introduction

Today we meet Zacchaeus, the rich typical sinner as a tax collector, who is small and poor as a person. He runs to encounter Jesus and is converted through this encounter, but it is really Jesus who takes the initiative by calling Zacchaeus out of the tree and asking whether he can stay in his house. This is the solution for the sinner, cold or lukewarm: accept to encounter the Lord again. This message is spoken to us too. Encountering Jesus will change us too.

General Intercessions

– That we may do all we can to see and find the Lord and to be close to him, we pray:

– That our encounter with the Lord in prayer, in good people and in the poor we help, may change us, we pray:

– That our eating from the Lord's table in the eucharist may deepen our love for Christ and for people, we pray:

Prayer over the Gifts

God our Father,
your Son stands at the door and knocks
to share with us our bread of poverty.
May we open to him the doors of our hearts
and welcome him eagerly.
Let it be his bread and his mentality
that nourish us,
that we may overcome all evil

through him who is our Lord for ever.

Prayer after Communion

God our Father,
you have given us Jesus as our guest
and at the same time our host
who has given us himself to eat.

He has found us;
let him fill us to the brim
with his life and his love,
to make a new beginning with us.
Help us to be to one another
as hospitable as he has been to us
and let him stay with us.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

Blessing

May we hear from the Lord too: salvation has come to this house, to this person, this community. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.