

# Liturgy Alive of Feast of St. John, Evangelist

## Introduction

Close to our Lord, obsessed by love. This may well be the marks of John the Evangelist. He had experienced in his person what it means to be loved by Jesus and to love in return. And Jesus was the Lord, God's Son! In later life he was driven by this love, as his gospel and his first letter reveal to us. He was the man who preached

love; the words he used, the urgency and insistence with which he spoke cannot come but from a man who lived this love deeply and who felt that this should be the mark too of the Christian communities.

### Opening Prayer

Lord God, you are love itself.

We know that you loved us first  
before we could ever love you.  
Let this unforgettable experience  
of your "beloved apostle" John  
become also our deep and lasting experience.  
May the love you have shown us  
in your Son Jesus Christ  
move us to love you very deeply in return  
and overflow on all those we meet in life.

We ask you this through Christ our Lord.

### General Intercessions

– Lord Jesus, make us understand and put into practice that the core of the gospel is love for you and for one another, we pray:

– Lord Jesus, may our words and actions bear witness that we believe and rejoice in you as our risen Lord, we pray:

– Lord Jesus, make us happy people, who feel secure because we know that we live in your presence, we pray:

### Prayer over the Gifts

Father,

bread and wine are the signs  
in which your Son gives himself to us today.  
May these gifts be at the same time  
the signs in which we place ourselves  
at your disposal  
and of the concrete you  
who are our neighbors far and near,  
our brothers and sisters whom you love  
and whom we love

in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### Prayer after Communion

Our living and loving God,

who can nourish our love better  
than he who spoke of it to us,  
your Son Jesus Christ?  
Like him, and strengthened by his body and blood,

may we respond to the warmth of your love  
by caring for our brothers and sisters,  
even at the expense of ourselves.

We ask you this through Christ our Lord.

#### **Blessing**

John is the apostle who insists that we should love one another as Jesus loves us. Jesus asks us to live in him as he lives in us. May we remain and grow in this love, with the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.