

Liturgy Alive of 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Greetings

We have come together
to offer petitions and thanksgiving
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
the only mediator between God and people.
May the Lord Jesus be always with you.

R/ And also with you.

Introduction by the Celebrant

A. I Have Entrusted Much to You

The Lord is asking us today: "What have you done with the many things and the people I have entrusted to you?" We speak much today of accountability not only for our jobs, our finances, our families, and our parishes, but accountability for our very lives. God has put so much into our hands: the material things we have as well as our gifts and talents. These are not just personal gifts for our own enjoyment, but for our communities, for the Kingdom of God. May we give a good account to the Lord.

B. God Or Mammon

We celebrate the Eucharist of the Lord. Here Jesus shares himself with us and he reminds us of how he gave himself so totally for us that in his love he was willing to die for all. In this light we have also to listen to his words. He knows that we need money and things but he warns us not to let money become our master. Rather, let the poor become your masters. The things you have are not really yours. They are on loan to you and you are their steward.

Penitential Act

We ask the Lord to forgive us
how selfishly we have managed
all that has been entrusted to us.
(pause)
Lord Jesus, when you called us to be good stewards,
we let money and possessions become our masters:
Lord, have mercy. *R/ Lord, have mercy.*
Jesus Christ, when you came to set us free,
we let power and ambition shackle us:
Christ, have mercy. *R/ Christ, have mercy.*
Lord Jesus, when you wanted us to serve the poor
we gave them handouts instead of ourselves:
Lord, have mercy. *R/ Lord, have mercy.*
Set us free again from sin, Lord,
and make us good stewards of the earth's goods.

Lead us to everlasting life. *R/ Amen.*

Opening Prayer

Let us pray to the Lord
that we may be fair and generous to all
(pause)
Just and merciful God,
make us a free people
that refuses to adore money and possessions
and to sacrifice the poor to them.
Make our hearts gentle and compassionate,
that we may open our hands and homes
to the dispossessed and those trampled upon,
to share with them in your name.
Make us just to all.
And may we, with you, lift up the lowly.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. *R/ Amen.*

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Introduction: God's People Must Be A Just People

In the name of true religion and the covenant, the prophet Amos warns God's people: God will reject them if they enrich themselves at the expense of the poor.

Second Reading Introduction: God Wants Everyone To Be Saved

Liturgical prayer, says St. Paul, must be universal and missionary, as God wants everyone to be saved through the only mediator, Jesus Christ. We should not forget to include in our prayers those who do not yet know Christ.

Gospel Introduction: Give Me An Account Of Your Service

The heart of Christians must be undivided. Their main concern is to serve God faithfully and to share generously what they have.

General Intercessions

Let us pray to the Lord our God to turn the hearts of all to the true values that last. Let us say: *R/ Lord, hear your people.*

- For the Church, that it may be a serving Church and a Church of the poor, bearing witness to God's gratuitousness as a living parable of sharing, let us pray: *R/ Lord, hear your people.*
- For those in positions of responsibility in politics, finances, and the economy, that justice and concern for the good of all may guide their decisions and actions, let us pray: *R/ Lord, hear your people.*
- For those who live by the work of their hands, that people may recognize their dignity and the service they render to all, let us pray: *R/ Lord, hear your people.*
- For the poor, those discriminated against, and all those with little access to the world's goods, that they may receive a fairer share, let us pray: *R/ Lord, hear your people.*
- For our Christian communities, that there may be justice among us and a deep concern for each other's happiness, that greed may give way to sharing and jealousy to loving service, let us pray: *R/ Lord, hear your people.*

Lord our God, free us from everything that makes us withdraw into ourselves. Make us live for one another and for you, our God for ever. *R/ Amen.*

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord our God,

you break for us here
the bread that satisfies the poor,
and pour for us the wine of joy
of Jesus, your Son.
With him, and by the wisdom and strength
of his Holy Spirit,
may we place ourselves
and all our gifts and creativity
in the service of people,
so that your kingdom may grow
in us and among all people,

and, by your grace, stand for ever. *R/ Amen.*

Introduction to the Eucharistic Prayer

Let us offer ourselves and our work to God that he may make it fruitful, for without him we can do nothing.

Invitation to the Lord's Prayer

With Jesus our Lord

we pray to our Father in heaven
for the coming of his kingdom
even before we pray for our own needs:

R/ Our Father...

Deliver Us

Deliver us Lord, from every evil

and extend your peace to all the world.
Let it be a peace based on justice
and on access by every person and nation
to the goods of this earth,
both spiritual and material.
Help us to live without display
and without artificial needs.
May we all work together
for the full coming among us

of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

R/ For the kingdom...

Invitation to Communion

This is Jesus, our Lord,

who lets us share in the bread and the cup
in which he gives himself to us.
Happy are we to receive him
who made himself poor for us
to make us rich in God.

R/ Lord, I am not worthy...

Prayer after Communion

Almighty, all-rich God,

what you create you give away
and entrust to us.
We try to keep riches and power
firmly in our own hands.
We thank you that you are different:
generous and unobtrusive,
hidden behind your gifts.
Teach us that we do not become smaller
when we make one another great,
nor do we become poorer if others are well-off.
Let us be of the mentality of him
who gave up power and might for our sakes.

Jesus Christ our Lord. *R/ Amen.*

Blessing

Let us be good stewards

of all God's good gifts to us,
and in the service of God and those around us.
And let us also be good stewards
of one another,
with the blessing of Almighty God,
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. *R/ Amen.*
Go in peace.

and serve the Lord in one another. *R/ Thanks be to God.*