

# Liturgy Alive of ST. THERESA OF JESUS, Virgin and Church Doctor, Memorial

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October 15

## Introduction

St Teresa of Jesus (of Avila) (1515–1582) had to grow from a lukewarm Carmelite nun into a fervent one. In The Interior Castle, she describes her mystic experience of deep union with the Lord. God is felt with a quiet, mystic feeling as living in one's deepest castle. Notwithstanding much opposition, Teresa reformed her Carmel and much of the Carmelite order on the basis of a life of deep prayer and a profound sense of community. Because of her writings about mysticism, she became the first woman to be a doctor of the Church.

## Opening Prayer

Our living and loving God,

St. Teresa of Jesus was deeply aware  
how much you live in the deepest of ourselves.  
May Teresa help us to live Jesus' life  
as living branches attached to the vine,  
who bear plenty of fruit  
of justice, goodness, and love.  
Let our union with Jesus become visible  
in our openness to one another  
and in a deep sense of prayer.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

## Prayer over the Gifts

Lord God, center of our lives,

you planted your Son among us  
as the true, life-giving vine.  
Let him give himself to us  
as our bread of strength  
and pour himself for us  
as the vigorous, unifying vine,  
that he may live in us and we in him  
and that we can do all things in him,

for he is our Lord for ever.

## Prayer after Communion

God, core of our life,

we thank you for filling us  
with the sap of life of Jesus, our true vine.  
May we go on living in deep union  
with him and with one another,  
that in the uncertainties of life  
we may go on believing, hoping,  
and building together a kingdom of love.  
And when we go again our selfish ways,  
use your pruning knife  
to purify our faith and love.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord.