

# Liturgy Alive of St. Anthony Mary Claret, Memorial

## Opening Prayer

Lord our God,  
you have set us free in Christ,  
free from our selfishness,  
free from shame and fear,  
free for life and service.  
God, accept our thanks for this free gift.  
Give us the strength, day after day,  
to grow in this liberty  
and to help our little or large world  
to attain the same freedom  
from sin and its consequences:  
from injustice, suffering, and oppression.  
One day may we be completely free  
in your eternal home,  
  
through Christ Jesus our Lord.

## Liturgy of the Word

### First Reading Introduction

Christ has set us free for the kingdom and the life and love of God. It is a liberty that is no longer license, a liberty that reshapes us in Christ and opens us to service of God and people. It is all a gift from God.

## Gospel Introduction

Today our Lord confronts us with the question: How fiery is your love and your faith? Can our faith accept contradiction and ridicule without letting us be reduced to silence? Perhaps we are resigned to the evil in us and in the world and fail to stand up for what is right and good. If our love for the Lord and people is strong enough, we do not tolerate an easy peace that puts our conscience to sleep. Let the fire of the Spirit burn in us.

## General Intercessions

- Jesus, set your Church afire with the flame of a deep concern to bring your good news to all. May the gospel dialogue with the world and with its aspirations and needs, we pray:

- Jesus, give the warmth of your strength to all who have to pass through the fire of suffering, failure and discrimination and keep them from discouragement, we pray:

- Jesus, light your fire again in the hearts of those whose faith has become lukewarm or who have lost the way to you, we pray:

## Prayer over the Gifts

God our Father,  
these gifts of bread and wine  
are humble offerings  
but they stand for all the love  
of which we are capable.  
Bring them to life and let them become  
the living sign of your love for people,  
your Son Jesus Christ.  
Through him fill our banal words  
with a spirit of loving service springing from the heart,  
and our inept gestures of love for one another  
with the wholeness and fullness  
  
of the love of Jesus Christ our Lord.

## Prayer after Communion

God, our Father,  
your Son came to bring fire on earth:

he himself passed through the fire of life.  
Make us realize, Lord, and accept  
that we may not seek peace at any cost.  
Give us the fire of your Spirit  
that we may not seek security  
in the self-contentment of the status quo,  
but go and commit ourselves

like Jesus, your Son and our Lord.

#### **Blessing**

Too often the fire of faith and love is easily extinguished in us. We are not heroes, or perhaps only rarely. It is easier to be left in peace. May God preserve us from a guilty peace and keep the fire of faith and love alive in us, and may God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.