

# Liturgy Alive of Feria

Opening Prayer

God of mercy and compassion,  
your Son Jesus Christ has brought us together  
as a community of sinners  
that knows that you have pardoned us.  
When our weaknesses threaten our unity,  
remind us of our responsibility for one another.  
Let your unifying Spirit give us the strength  
to care for one another  
and to do all we can to remain  
a living, forgiving and welcoming community.

May we meet in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Introduction

It was written in Greek in Alexandria, the century before the Christian era. Although he hopes non-Jews too to read it, the author advises mainly his coreligionists to seek wisdom in their faith in God rather than in the surrounding philosophical culture of Alexandria.

# Gospel Introduction

It is hard to place the sayings of our Gospel today (Lk 17:1-6) in a coherent context. They rather look like disparate statements about key concerns and messages of Luke: concern for the lowly, the need of forgiving one another, and faith. When Luke speaks about scandal, he is not thinking of giving any bad example, but of obstacles that make people stumble, like Jesus sitting at table with sinners, something totally unacceptable to many Jews. We take the message of forgiveness.

# General Intercessions

- That in all honesty we may acknowledge our sins to the Lord, who knows what is in our hearts, and also to the persons we have hurt, we pray:
- That we may have enough faith to forgive totally and without reservations those who have offended us, we pray:
- That pastors in charge of communities may practice what they teach and inspire their people, we pray:

Prayer over the Gifts

God our Father,  
you bring together at the table of your Son  
the weak with the strong, the sick with the healthy.  
Let your Son fill us here  
with the fullness of his presence,  
that we may accept one another  
to live with one another in peace and friendship.  
We offer you our good will  
to welcome one another

in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayer after Communion

God our Father,  
your Son Jesus has been in our midst  
and he has strengthened us with his body and blood.  
He made our wounds of sin  
his wounds and he healed them.  
Let the wounds of our brothers and sisters  
become ours, their joys our happiness.  
Let your Son teach us the art  
of bringing those who err back to you

and into our communities,  
without embittering or humiliating them,

without any feeling of superiority,

but simply because they are our brothers and sisters

in Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### **Blessing**

Let us keep in mind the exhortation Jesus gives us in Luke, to be people of deep faith who can forgive one another and care for the poor and the humble, with the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.