

Liturgy Alive of Feria

Opening Prayer

God, source and purpose of all life,
you have committed yourself to us
with a love that never ends.
Give us the indestructible hope
that you have prepared for us
a life and a happiness
beyond the powers of death.
May this firm hope sustain us
to find joy in life
and to face its difficulties and challenges
resolutely and fearlessly.

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Introduction

We are told in the first reading about the end of King Antiochus IV. After he had failed to rob the temple of Artemis in Mesopotamia and heard about the restoration of Jerusalem and its Temple he died in discouragement.

Gospel Introduction

"God is the God of the living," says Jesus. He calls back to life those who die; death is overcome, since Jesus rose from the dead. The witnesses of the first reading are put to death by the might of this earth because they contest the abuse of power, but God raises them up. The resurrection is the core of our faith, not only as a promise to live on in God's joy after death, but already now as a power of building up one another in human dignity, justice, peace and serving love. We cannot die for ever, because God cannot stop loving us.

General Intercessions

- That we may keep up the good fight against all that is deadly to Christian life: dehumanizing kinds of labor, suppression of freedom, paralyzing fear, lack of love and compassion, we pray:

- That all suffering and dying people may share in our resurrection faith and find strength in the knowledge that God loves them in life and beyond death, we pray:

- That our beloved dead may live on in the life they gave us, in the faith they passed on to us and in the good we do, we pray:

Prayer over the Gifts

God of the living,

in these signs of bread and wine
we celebrate the memory of Jesus, your Son.
He died for us,
but he is now alive here among us
as our risen Lord.

Strengthen us with his body and blood
and give us a great respect for our own body
in which we hope to rise one day.

Like your Son, may we use it
to serve and love and thank you
and to reach out to our neighbor

by the power of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayer after Communion

God of the living,
you want us to live even beyond death
as fully human and complete persons,
and yet totally transformed by your love
that makes us your daughters and sons.

Give us the quiet but firm faith
that life is meaningful and worthwhile
and that death is not the end
but the beginning of a new way of living.
May this certainty encourage us
to share our hope with those
to whom life makes little sense.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Blessing

We are people of hope and joy, for Christ is risen. We are sure that we too shall rise with him one day. This is why our hope in God's love and life is indestructible. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.