

# **Liturgy Alive of ST. IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH, Bishop and Martyr**

## **Introduction**

Bishop of Antioch in the 1st century, Ignatius (+c. 107) was arrested and condemned to be thrown to the beasts. On his way to Rome, several communities of Christians received him with much veneration. He thanked them in letters written during his journey, encouraged them to hold on to the faith and to remain united with the hierarchy "as strings on a lyre." He requested Christians not to keep him from dying a martyr, for "I am the wheat of Christ; let the teeth of the lions grind me, that I may become the stainless bread of Christ."

We too, become the bread of Christ and our life must become a Eucharist, an offering of thanksgiving with Christ.

## **Opening Prayer**

God our steadfast hope,  
St. Ignatius of Antioch knew that in his martyrdom  
he identified with your Son, Jesus.  
Like Jesus, he was planted as a grain of wheat  
in the furrows of the earth.  
Let there grow from his death  
an abundant harvest of a new humanity.  
Give your people strength to follow him  
so that our love and deep faith  
may bring life and joy to many.  
We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

## **Prayer over the Gifts**

Lord our God,  
in these signs of bread and wine,  
we remember Jesus, your Son,  
who gave himself to all  
as bread broken and shared  
and as wine to be poured for the joy of all.  
Give us the spirit of Jesus,  
that we too, may commit ourselves  
to the happiness of those around us.  
Make us willing to accept suffering  
if this is the price to pay,  
for being faithful to you and to people.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

## **Prayer after Communion**

Lord our faithful God,

on account of his love for you and for us,  
no suffering was too painful for your Son,  
no death too costly  
to win for us lasting life and happiness.  
Through this Eucharist, help us to accept  
the invitations and risks of love.  
Make us follow your Son  
in living not for ourselves but for others  
and give us the certainty  
that pain or death is not the end  
but the seed of a new beginning  
in Christ Jesus, our Lord.