

Liturgy Alive of Tuesday, 3rd week of Easter

Introduction

Stephen and the persecuted Christians of the early Church relive the passion of Christ; they suffer not only for Christ, but also with him and like him; their attitude is also: "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit; Lord, do not hold this against them." But Stephen and the first Christians are sure that death has not the final say: they will live on with the risen Christ.

Christians are sustained in life by the true bread from heaven, Christ, who breaks for them the bread of his word and the bread of himself, for he is "given" bread, sacrificing himself to give life. Christ is the answer to our deepest hungers. We too should hunger for him and say, "Give us this bread always."

Opening Prayer

Lord our God, generous Father,
you have given us your Son Jesus
that we may relive with him and like him
his passion and his resurrection.
Through Jesus, give us the courage
to place ourselves into your hands
in the trials of life and in death,
that one day we may see your glory
and at your right hand your Son Jesus Christ,

who lives with you for ever.

General Intercessions

- For people who search for the meaning of life and who hunger for what is right and good, that they may find Jesus, we pray:

- For those whose faith is tested in persecutions, that the Lord may give them the strength to remain faithful, we pray:

- For our Christian communities, that they may never be deprived of the eucharist, we pray:

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord God, eternal Father,
in these signs of bread and wine
you give us your Son Jesus Christ.
May we eat him and never be hungry,
believe in him, and never thirst.
May he be to us the bread of immortality
that sustains us on the road of life,
until we reach your eternal home

where we can live with you for ever.

Prayer after Communion

Lord, loving God,
your Son has nourished us
with the bread of life of himself.
Give us this bread always.
Let Jesus still our deepest hungers,
for all that is beautiful, true and good,
that we may be to everyone we touch
bread given for the life of the world,
together with your Son Jesus Christ

who lives with you and with us for ever.

Blessing

"Give us this bread always," said the crowd. Christ is our bread, our food, our riches, the meaning of our lives, who accompanies us on the journey of life. May he always keep nourishing us with himself. We ask God to bless us, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.