

Liturgy Alive of 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Greetings *(see Responsorial Psalms)*

Give praise to the Lord

who gives bread to the hungry
and raises up those who are bowed down.
It is he who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan.

May this loving God be with you always. *R/ And also with you.*

Introduction by the Celebrant

A. In the Hands of God

How much do we Christians dare to live in the hands of God? Shouldn't that be our trademark as Christians, together with love for one another? We are supposed to love God so much that we trust him completely, absolutely, without conditions, without fear or hesitation. That was the way of Jesus, who lived in the hands of his Father. Even in his humiliating death on the cross he could say, "Father, into your hands I entrust my spirit." Timid and weak people as we are, we now offer with Christ our Lord our trust to the Father and we entrust to him all those dear to us.

B. The Poor Know How to Share

For some it is something surprising and heartwarming to see how many poor people help one another, how they share the very little they have and do so without much ado, discreetly and spontaneously. Should that not be to all of us an invitation to conversion, to greater generosity? It makes the poor person a benefactor, the receiver into a giver, the destitute into a rich person. Where do we stand? Do we know how to give with trust in both God and people? Let us join Christ in his sacrifice, in the Eucharist and in life, for he gave himself totally.

Penitential Act

God has been generous to us,

but we have often been stingy to others
in our love and things to share.
Let us ask pardon from God and from one another.
(PAUSE)

Lord Jesus, you called blessed
those who are poor in spirit,
and you showed us the way:
Lord, have mercy. *R/ Lord, have mercy.*

Jesus Christ, you gave yourself -
your life, your death, all you are.
Christ, have mercy. *R/ Christ, have mercy.*

Lord Jesus, you took upon yourself
our sins and faults
and made us rich with your own life:
Lord, have mercy. *R/ Lord, have mercy.*

Have mercy on us, Lord,
take all our sins away
and make us generous like yourself.

Lead us to everlasting life. *R/ Amen.*

Opening Prayer

Let us pray to God for deep trust in him

(PAUSE)
God with the heart of a father and a mother,
you care for the poor,
give justice to the oppressed
and food to the hungry;
In your Son Jesus you have shown us how
to give not from our surplus but ourselves.
Confound our calculations
and change our self-interest
into generous sharing,
that our way of giving may become like yours,
counting the cost.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. *R/ Amen.*

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Introduction: She Gave the Last She Had

At a time of famine, a pagan widow gives her last food to the prophet Elijah because he asks for it in God's name. Both the prophet and the widow trust that God will provide.

Second Reading Introduction: Christ Sacrificed Himself for All

Christ offered to God not man-made gifts but himself. This is why his sacrifice, offered once and for all, was powerful enough to save all.

Gospel Introduction: She Offered All She Had to Live On

While others gave what they did not need, the poor widow gave all she had to live on. She was more generous than anyone else.

General Intercessions

Let us pray to God our generous Father, who loves the weak and the humble, and let us pray for all those who are poor. Let us say: *R/ Listen to your people, Lord.*

- Lord, we pray for your Church. Preserve it from the temptation of power and riches. So we pray: *R/ Listen to your people, Lord.*
- Lord, we pray for all public officials. Keep them from the temptation of greed and abuse of power. So we pray: *R/ Listen to your people, Lord.*
- Lord, we pray for widows and orphans. Keep them from despair and make us attentive to their need of love and compassion. So we pray: *R/ Listen to your people, Lord.*
- Lord, we pray for all the poor who are insecure about the next day. May we bring them security and love. Also for the rich, we pray you that they may open their hands and hearts. So we pray: *R/ Listen to your people, Lord.*
- Lord, we pray for this community. Make us generous enough to share not only from our abundance but also, when needed, from our own poverty. So we pray: *R/ Listen to your people, Lord.*
- Lord, we bring also our personal intentions before you. (moment of silence) So we pray: *R/ Listen to your people, Lord.*

Father, we know that you love us and care for us with the tenderness of a mother. We entrust all our cares to you. Be generous to us and make us generous like you by the power of Jesus Christ our Lord. *R/ Amen.*

Prayer over the Gifts

Loving God,

in these signs of bread and wine
we celebrate how Jesus, your Son,
gave himself once and for all,
that we might live and love and be free.
May we learn from him
to ask not how much we can afford
without hurting ourselves,
but let him be our strength
to give the best of ourselves
and to answer his voice
crying out to us in everyone in need.

Grant us this through Christ our Lord. *R/ Amen.*

Introduction to the Eucharistic Prayer

Let us now give thanks and praise to God our Father for Jesus, who gave all, his whole self, that we might live and become capable of love.

Invitation to the Lord's Prayer

God knows what we need,
for he is our Father.
We pray to him with the full trust

of Jesus himself: *R/ Our Father...*

Deliver Us

Deliver us, Lord, from every evil
and grant us the peace that comes
from living in your hands
and from discovering your presence
in our brothers and sisters in need.
In your mercy, keep us free
from the fear of really giving ourselves,
as we wait in joyful hope
for the life and salvation

of our Savior Jesus Christ. *R/ For the kingdom...*

Invitation to Communion

This is the Lamb of God
who sacrificed himself
to forgive our sins
and to share his life with us.
Happy are the poor and hungry,
for the Lord invites them at his table

to give himself to them. *R/ Lord, I am not worthy...*

Prayer after Communion

God, merciful Father,
your Son came to fill with your gifts
the poor aware of their own emptiness,
and he called them blessed.
Help us to discover how poor we really are -
poor in faith, in trust, in generous love.
Be near to us in your Son,
that we may be available to all
and share the best that is in us
without any outward display
but in quiet deeds of love and service,
as Jesus did, your Son,

who lives with you and with us for ever. *R/ Amen.*

Blessing

We have celebrated the sacrifice of Jesus.
He gave what he had and was -
his whole self -
to bring others life and happiness.
Let us go to become Christians,
that is, people like Christ
who do not count the cost of our gifts.
May almighty God bless you,

the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. *R/ Amen.*

Let us go and share ourselves

with one another. *R/ Thanks be to God.*