

Liturgy Alive of Feria

Opening Prayer

Our God and Father,
in signs and stories
your Son Jesus made it clear to us
that love of you and our neighbor
is the heart of the Christian life.
Make it indeed clear and obvious to us
that anyone in need is our neighbor
and that in serving those around us
we love and serve you.

our Lord and God for ever.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Introduction

Jonah is not a prophetic but a humorous, didactic book. In an ironic way it teaches a surprising universalism: God wants also pagans to be converted. Perhaps it also teaches prophets to accept their mission and not to refuse to seek the conversion even of the sinners they may despise. Like the prophet Jonah, we sometimes run away from our mission - the mission of any Christian - to bring salvation to people everywhere, because we lack the courage which involvement and commitment demands. This commitment is a mission of love, even to strangers.

Gospel Introduction

According to an old Jewish story, a father tells his small son: "I think that God made people because he likes to tell stories and he wanted someone to tell them to." We have Jesus with us today to tell us the immortal story of the Good Samaritan. Who is my neighbor? Anyone who needs me, whoever he or she may be. And "go and do the same."

General Intercessions

- For all ministers of the Church, that they may faithfully proclaim God's word and God's law and at the same time walk in God's ways of compassion and love without measure, we pray:

- For all those who lie wounded by the road of life, that they may find good Samaritans who assist them to restore their faith in life and their trust in people, we pray:

- For all those who have been good neighbors to us, that the Lord may reward them, we pray:

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord our God,
in these signs of bread and wine
your Son Jesus tells us the story
of how he has given his life for us.
Give him to us now,
that he may share with us
his strength to do as he did,
to give his and our life for all,
that we may live with him in your love,
now and for ever.

Prayer after Communion

Our God and Father,
we give you thanks for Jesus,
your Son in our midst.
Like him, may we tell with our lives
the old story, ever new,
of how you want to care through us
for every person in need.

God, live in us,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Blessing

We have heard how Jesus wants to make us all good Samaritans, people who have time and attention, compassion and love, for everyone in need. Our neighbor is any person who needs us. May the loving and almighty God bless you all, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.