

# Liturgy Alive of Saint IRENAEUS OF LYONS

Saint IRENAEUS OF LYONS, Bishop and Martyr

Memorial

June 28

## Introduction

St. Irenaeus of Lyons is perhaps the most lovable and human of the early Church Fathers. A strong defender of the faith against heresies, he was at the same time a peacemaker among Christians of East and West (*born in Asia Minor, yet bishop of Lyons, France*) and full of love for those who erred, while firm in doctrinal matters and faithful to true tradition. In this he was true to his name (*irene = peace*).

## Opening Prayer

Lord our God,  
we are divided in camps and factions,  
because we make our opinions into absolutes  
or consider ourselves  
the sole proprietors of the complete truth.  
Give us the insight and the humility  
always to accept and esteem  
other people as brothers and sisters  
and to respect their ideas or their faith,  
without being ashamed of our faith  
founded on the one Lord of all.

Jesus Christ, our Savior and our Lord.

## Prayer over the Gifts

Lord our God,  
we bring this bread and this wine before you  
as our gifts of peace and reconciliation.  
Unite us in your Son, we pray you,  
and make us into peacemakers, like St. Irenaeus.  
By our unity  
in the message and life of your Son,  
make us into signs of peace to all.

We ask you this through Christ our Lord.

## Prayer after Communion

Lord our God,  
you have made yourself known to us  
through your Son Jesus Christ  
and you want us to live his message  
in all its consequences.  
Give us the strength of St. Irenaeus  
to make this faith  
the heart of all we do  
and may this faith express itself  
in loyalty, peace and service.

We ask you this through Christ our Lord.