

[92] THIRTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME A

FIRST READING

That is the holy man of God; let him remain there.

A reading from the second book of Kings

4:8-11, 14-16a

One day Elisha went to the town of Shunem.

A rich woman lived there,
and she invited him in for a meal.
Each time Elisha was in town after that,
he would eat at her home.

The woman said to her husband,
“I’m sure that this man who comes by here so often
is a holy man of God.
Let’s build him a small room on our flat roof.
We can put a bed, a table, a chair, and an oil lamp in the room.
He can stay there whenever he comes to visit us.”
The next time Elisha came to Shunem,
he spent the night in his room.

Elisha asked his servant Gehazi,
“What can we do to repay this woman for being so kind?”

Gehazi answered,
“She doesn’t have a son, and her husband is old.”

Elisha said to Gehazi,
“Tell the woman to come here.”
He told her,
And she came and stood in the doorway of the room.

Elisha promised the woman,
“Next year about this time you will have a son of your own.”

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

89:1-2, 15-16

R. (2a) Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Our Lord, I will sing
of your love forever.
Everyone yet to be born
will hear me praise
your faithfulness.
I will tell them, "God's love
can always be trusted,
and his faithfulness lasts
as long as the heavens."

R. Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Our Lord, you bless those
who join in the festival
and walk in the brightness
of your presence.
We are happy all day
because of you,
and your saving power
brings honor to us.

R. Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

SECOND READING

Buried with Christ in baptism,
we shall walk in the newness of life.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

6:3-4, 8-9

Brothers and sisters:

Don't you know that all who share in Christ Jesus by being baptized
also share in his death?

When we were baptized,
we died and were buried with Christ.

We were baptized, so that we would live a new life,
as Christ was raised to life by the glory of God the Father.

As surely as we died with Christ,
we believe we will also live with him.

We know that death no longer has any power over Christ.
He died and was raised to life,
never again to die.

The word of the Lord.

ALLELUIA

1 Peter 2:9

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy people.
Praise God who called you out of darkness
and into his marvelous light.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

Anyone who welcomes you, welcomes me.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew 10:40-42

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me.
And anyone who welcomes me also welcomes the one who sent me.”

“Anyone who welcomes a prophet, just because that person is a prophet,
will be given the same reward as a prophet.
Anyone who welcomes a good person, just because that person is good,
will be given the same reward as a good person.”

“And anyone who gives one of my most humble followers
a cup of cool water,
just because that person is my follower,
will surely be rewarded.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Thirteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Prayer:

Dear Jesus, you said that “whoever welcomes you, welcomes me.” We want to make everyone feel good when they come to us for a visit. We like to go places where we are welcome. That makes us feel good. Help us to be kind and friendly to all. May we always welcome you to be with us wherever or whomever we are with. Sometimes that is not easy. Give us your help always. Amen

Listen to the Word of God:

Kings 4: 8-11, 14-16a

Psalm 98: 1-2, 15-16

Romans 6:3 - 4, 8 - 9

Matthew 10: 40-42

Reflection:

Isn't it fun to go to Grandma's house? She always makes you feel special. She gives you what you like.

Have you ever invited a friend over? Did you make sure they had what they needed: snacks, drinks, and at playtime what they liked to do? And if they stayed over night, did you make sure they had a good bed, and any thing else they needed? Didn't you feel good when you did all of that and your friend was happy?

The woman in the first reading went out of her way to give her visitor all he needed – a bed, table, chair, oil lamp and always plenty food to eat. She wanted him to feel welcome any time he came there. God then gave her and her husband a little baby. How good God is! What about those who come to visit whom we maybe do not like so well? Sometimes that is real hard. It is like a little cross for us to be like Jesus in those times. What can we do then? And how will we feel if we are kind and caring anyway?

Close your eyes now and think of how you feel. Thank Jesus for the many good people who welcome you and make you feel good. Think of those whom you helped feel welcome when they came to see you.

Discuss:

1. What did you do to make your friend so welcome and feel good?
2. Tell what someone did to make you really feel welcome.
3. Tell about a time when you had a visitor that it was hard to do the nice things for.
4. What can you do for the people you live with everyday to make them feel welcome?
5. What can you do when it is hard to be that welcoming kind of person or the person does not let you be helpful? How would you feel is you were not kind and welcoming? How would you feel is you were specially nice to them?
6. What do you think Jesus wants you to do today?

(Continue on page 2)

Activity:

Form a circle and sing to the tune of Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star.

Welcome, welcome, welcome, Jesus
What can I do to be like you?

Welcome, welcome, welcome, Jesus.
Gifts you give for all we do.

Welcome, welcome, welcome, Jesus.
Help us do what is the best.

Then make a welcome mat for someone special.