

The Living Word

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

2 July 2023

First Reading 2 Kgs 4:8-11. 14-16

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

One day as Elisha was on his way to Shunem, a woman of rank who lived there pressed him to stay and eat there. After this he always broke his journey for a meal when he passed that way. She said to her husband, 'Look, I am sure the man who is constantly passing our way must be a holy man of God. Let us build him a small room on the roof, and put him a bed in it, and a table and chair and lamp; whenever he comes to us he can rest there.'

One day when he came, he retired to the upper room and lay down. 'What can be done for her?' he asked. Gehazi (his servant) answered, 'Well, she has no son and her husband is old.' Elisha said, 'Call her.' The servant called her and she stood at the door. 'This time next year,' Elisha said 'you will hold a son in your arms.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 88:2-3. 16-19. R. v.2

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

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. (R.)
2. Happy the people who acclaim such a king,
who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face,
who find their joy every day in your name,
who make your justice the source of their bliss. (R.)
3. For it is you, O Lord, who are the glory of their strength;
it is by your favour that our might is exalted:
for our ruler is in the keeping of the Lord;
our king in the keeping of the Holy One of Israel. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 6:3-4. 8-11

Having been buried with him through baptism, we shall walk in a new life.

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by

the Father's glory, we too might live a new life.

But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more. When he died, he died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with God; and in that way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation 1 Pt 2:9

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy people.

Praise God who called you out of darkness and into his marvellous light.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 10:37-42

Anyone who does not accept his cross is not worthy of me. Anyone who welcomes you, welcomes me.

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Anyone who prefers father or mother to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who prefers son or daughter to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me. Anyone who finds his life will lose it; anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it.

'Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and those who welcome me welcome the one who sent me.

'Anyone who welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet will have a prophet's reward; and anyone who welcomes a holy man because he is a holy man will have a holy man's reward.

'If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.'



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

In the early Church, Christianity ripped families apart. Good Jewish families would have been appalled to see their sons and daughters go off to follow a crucified blasphemer. Good reason to keep apart in the synagogue, avoiding damnable pollution. This sectarianism contrasted with the Christians who fearlessly went out into the world.

St John Paul II personified what it is to be Catholic. But, he pressed a prayer into a crack in the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem and as an old man shuffled across the floor of a Mosque in Syria.

Of course, there was no compromise of belief and faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, denied by both Jews and Muslims. But his actions were not those of one with the siege mentality of the member of a cult. Rather, he was able to respond to the promptings of the Holy Spirit to take these steps recognising what was good amongst the adherents of those faiths.

We could pause for a moment to implore the Holy Spirit to break us out from any constricting cult-like tendencies so that we can go out into the world powerfully proclaiming the resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

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Wordsearch

Try to find these words:

cup good prophet sent
disciples humble rewarded water
follower Matthew same welcome

R	I	P	L	M	R	X	D	H	B	N	N	S	E	N	T	T
U	F	A	F	M	P	F	A	O	N	F	W	U	N	V	H	M
D	D	Y	V	V	F	F	D	L	S	E	P	D	V	E	T	Z
V	F	D	C	H	C	L	P	B	A	W	H	N	L	T	M	S
S	T	M	C	U	W	F	W	K	N	R	P	B	E	Z	B	H
A	K	Z	M	D	Z	T	G	S	I	M	M	H	P	U	C	N
D	I	S	C	I	P	L	E	S	G	U	P	V	V	P	I	F
C	W	I	Y	N	I	M	M	J	H	O	T	J	D	G	J	O
F	D	E	D	R	A	W	E	R	R	B	A	X	I	U	S	L
T	G	D	T	B	H	D	M	P	L	R	R	P	D	G	N	L
K	T	L	E	T	P	G	W	Z	X	P	D	V	W	S	G	O
D	Y	Y	W	F	X	A	T	A	W	F	O	J	T	A	Z	W
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T	W	X	Y	B	G	Y	D	C	X	E	G	G	X	E	Q	R
Q	F	R	B	C	N	P	X	U	E	M	R	T	Q	H	X	E
H	E	R	Z	L	C	U	M	V	E	M	O	C	L	E	W	E
D	H	A	L	C	C	O	P	F	Y	M	T	B	Q	Q	F	R

St Thomas the Apostle was one of the twelve disciples commissioned by Jesus. In John's Gospel when upon hearing that Jesus had risen from the dead, Thomas replied, "Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe". But when Jesus appeared Thomas then professed his faith – this story giving rise to the name "doubting Thomas". After Jesus' death it is widely believed he sailed to India in 52AD where he established several churches in the southern state of Kerala. Tradition suggests he was martyred in 72AD; speared to death at a site now called St Thomas Mount, before being buried in Mylapore in modern day Chennai. St Thomas is one of the patron saints of India.

Colour in the picture below

Anyone
who gives a
disciple of
Jesus even
a cup of
cold water,
will not lose
their reward.

