

28 JUNE 2020
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

OPENING HYMN

**Praise God, praise God,
Let his love remind us of the power of his name.
Praise God, praise God,
All creation sings its song of praise.**

The Lord is kind and merciful;
His anger's slow to rise.
The Lord is good in all his works;
His graciousness remains forever.

(or choose an appropriate alternate hymn)

OPENING PRAYER

O God, who through the grace of adoption chose us to be children of the light, grant, we pray, that we may not be wrapped in the darkness of error but always be seen to stand in the bright light of truth. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

FIRST READING: 2 Kgs 4:8-11, 14-16

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 88:2-3, 16-19

Our Response is: I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

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 forever,
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. **R/**

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/**

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

GOSPEL: Mt 10:37-42

REFLECTION:

Different situations in our lives give us the opportunity to express our love and affection for people who touch our lives in different ways. A few concrete ways are giving flowers, gifts, greeting cards, inviting someone over for a meal etc... In the gospel text of today, we are invited to express our love for Jesus by serving others.

In today's gospel text Jesus tells us that the only way we can find life is if we are ready "*to lose it for the sake of the gospel*". When we choose to love and serve Jesus we may be challenged to do so above family, neighbours, society and our careers. While warning us of the persecutions we may face, Jesus assures us of his love and how precious we are to him. Like Christ, are we ready to embrace the Cross and thus experience new life? **Pause**.

In the first reading of today we see the second part of the gospel on hospitality, care and the reward for it. The Shunemite woman served prophet Elisha and provided for his needs. By serving Elisha, she received the gift of life in return. In today's world we are concerned about our own safety and hospitality. What are some of the ways we can offer hospitality, show care and concern for others? **Pause**.

Today's responsorial psalm exhorts us to praise God. In the light of the first reading a childless woman who is promised a son experiences the fulfillment of the prophecy. The New Covenant in Jesus, where death becomes the central idea in order to experience new life, invites to live Christ's values and experience an even greater fruitfulness in our lives.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Leader: Let us confidently bring our prayers before the Lord who is gracious and merciful.

Our response is: Lord, listen to your children praying.

We pray for all the members of the Church, that they may practice hospitality in their lives; (**pause**); let us pray to the Lord...

We pray for our country and its neighbours that we may live in peace and harmony and that our leaders work for the welfare of the citizens in their respective countries; (**pause**); let us pray to the Lord...

We pray for all those who are suffering and have lost their means of livelihood. May they be open to learning new skills through the care and support of the community and people of good will; (**pause**); let us pray to the Lord...

We pray for all baptised Christians that we may be faithful to the Lord and follow his values; (**pause**); let us pray to the Lord...

Leader: Almighty God, you always shower us with your goodness and love. Hear our prayers and grant us the grace that as faithful disciples, we may make work towards building the kingdom of God. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us together at the Saviour's command and formed by Divine teaching, dare to say:
(*All say the Lord's Prayer together*) Our Father, ...

CLOSING PRAYER

O Lord, we pray that your Word may fill us with life so that, bound to you in lasting charity we may bear fruit that lasts forever. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF FROM THE CORONAVIRUS

Almighty and merciful God, who show Your love to all creation everywhere, hear graciously the prayers we make for all those affected by the Coronavirus in various parts of the world.

We come before You asking for a quick control of the outbreak, for a healing of those affected, for the victims and their families.

We pray for the doctors doing research that an effective vaccine to combat the sickness is speedily found.

We pray for the Government and health authorities that they take appropriate steps for the good of the people. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

**Lose yourself in me and you will find yourself,
Lose yourself in me and you will find new life.
Lose yourself in me and you will find yourself,
And you will live, yes, you will live in my love.**

Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground,
It still remains but a grain of wheat.
But if it fall and dies, then it bears much fruit,
So it is with those who lose themselves in me.

(or choose an appropriate alternate hymn)