

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

1 Pet 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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

2 JULY 2023

GOSPEL MESSAGE BEFORE ALL ELSE

Anyone who has ever been on the receiving end of gracious hospitality in a time of need knows how marvellous it is to be trusted by a stranger. To be treated with respect by someone who does not know us is not something to be overlooked. In the case of Elisha, a woman's generous and attentive hospitality reaped a most unexpected reward, the promise of a child. In its early years, the Christian movement was going through a period of rapid growth and expansion. This meant that preachers were required to move from one community to another passing on the traditions of Jesus' sayings and teachings. To sustain such endeavours a network of hospitality was required. Today's Gospel reflects that situation. Both the missionaries, and the communities that would welcome them, were instructed about their responsibility for the Gospel message, and for each other. Jesus' call may sound harsh and uncompromising but what is being communicated is the need to put the Gospel message before all else, to follow in Jesus' footsteps and to share in his life.

After some twenty years of missionary work, of preaching, catechesis and founding communities, Paul reflects with the community in Rome on the meaning of our baptism as Christians. It is not simply a sign of entering a new community of faith but, at its deepest level, being brought into the saving life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. The events of that first Easter are not simply foundational events to be gratefully remembered but must transform every aspect of our lives.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

2 Kings 4: 8-11, 14-16

A reading from the second book of the Kings.

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.'

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESP PSALM

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

R. For ever 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

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

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.

■ **The word of the Lord.**