

Each week we are welcomed by our fellow sojourners as we gather together to celebrate the Eucharist. Today we hear of a woman and her husband who offer hospitality to the prophet Elisha whenever he comes to their city, going so far as furnishing him with a place to stay. Let us furnish a place in our hearts for our Lord to stay so that we may gain strength and nourishment on our journey to the kingdom.

As we gather together let us begin our service by professing what we believe.

Profession of Faith: Page 102

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (bow as we say) and by the Holy Spirit he was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Introductory Rite:

Greeting:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed be God for ever.

Penitential Rite:

My brothers and sisters, to prepare ourselves for this celebration, let us call to mind our sins.

Lord Jesus, you died to sin once and for all: Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you were raised from the dead by the glory of the Father: Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are the way that leads to everlasting life: Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

Opening Prayer:

O God, who through the grace of adoption chose us to be children of 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.**

Liturgy of the Word:

First Reading Page 76

A reading from the second Book of Kings

2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16a

One day Elisha came to Shunem, where there was a woman of influence, who urged him to dine with her. Afterward, whenever he passed by, he used to stop there to dine. So she said to her husband, "I know that Elisha is a holy man of God. Since he visits us often, let us arrange a little room on the roof and furnish it for him with a bed, table, chair, and lamp, so that when he comes to us he can stay there." Sometime later Elisha arrived and stayed in the room overnight.

Later Elisha asked, "Can something be done for her?" His servant Gehazi answered, "Yes! She has no son, and her husband is getting on in years." Elisha said, "Call her." When the woman had been called and stood at the door, Elisha promised, "This time next year you will be fondling a baby son."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm Page 76

Psalm 89:2-3, 16-17, 18-19

R/. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

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The promises of the LORD I will sing forever,
through all generations my mouth shall proclaim your faithfulness.
For you have said, "My kindness is established forever;"
in heaven you have confirmed your faithfulness. **R/**.

Blessed the people who know the joyful shout; in the light of your countenance, O LORD, they walk.
At your name they rejoice all the day, and through your justice they are exalted. **R/**.

You are the splendor of their strength, and by your favor our horn is exalted.
For to the LORD belongs our shield, and the Holy One of Israel, our king. **R/**.

Second Reading Page 78

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Romans 6:3-4, 8-11

Brothers and sisters: Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life.

If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him. As to his death, he died to sin once and for all; as to his life, he lives for God. Consequently, you too must think of yourselves as dead to sin and living for God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Page 78

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Matthew 10:37-42

Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus said to his apostles: "Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

"Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me. Whoever receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man will receive a righteous man's reward. And whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink because the little one is a disciple— amen, I say to you, he will surely not lose his reward."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection on the Word:

The woman of Shunem was clearly a woman of influence, even in her own marriage. The author clearly states that it is she, not her husband, who invites the prophet to dine with them in their home. She goes on to suggest to her husband, not ask him, that they build a room for Elisha and furnish it with furniture. She is determined to offer him hospitality beyond his or her husband's expectations. For her generosity, God rewards her with a child. She had prepared a room for God's prophet. Elisha promises her that God will prepare her womb for a new life.

When most of us were baptized a stream of water was poured over our heads, but to truly appreciate the first line of the second reading, we should picture baptism by immersion. After all, this was the norm in Paul's time. When the elect are plunged into the baptismal waters, they are temporarily unable to breathe. They are dying with Christ. When their faces are lifted out of the water, they are being raised to new, changed life. As baptized Christians, we are called to bury our lives of sin and live in a new life of holiness.

When using an absurdly high bar, we often make comparisons that sound ridiculous: "I love this ice cream more than life itself." Jesus' opening words to his apostles in the Gospel sound equally outrageous: "Whoever loves father or mother . . . son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me" (Matthew 10:37). How could we love anyone more than the people who brought us into the world or those whom we brought into the world? But this is not the point. Loving Christ above all gives us a different perspective, in which everyone is someone's daughter or son. This allows us to see all people as our brothers and sisters.

Question - Can I allow myself to attempt to see the world from God's perspective? What sacrifice can I make to carry out the Lord's mission?

Prayer of the Faithful:

We take the opportunity now to pray for our needs and for all those in need, trusting in the everlasting goodness of the Lord.

• For the Church, that we may always be willing to take up our cross and follow the Lord no matter the cost, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

• For all who provide leadership in government, in the workplace, and in the family, that they may shepherd their people along right paths and treat with compassion all who struggle or stray, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

• For those most affected by global warming: those without the resources or ability to overcome the effects of natural disasters and environmental repercussions, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

• For those anticipating the birth or adoption of a child, that they may know God's blessings in welcoming a new member to their family, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

• For all of us, that we may grow in willingness to offer hospitality to those in need, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For what else should we pray? _____ let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

• For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Loving God, we sing of your goodness as we bring these needs before you. Listen to our prayers and grant them according to your will, through Christ our Lord.

Communion RiteThe Lord's Prayer: Page 134

Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Rite of Peace:

The sign of peace outwardly expresses a deep spiritual reality; through this sign we acknowledge Christ's presence in each other and share the peace we have received from Him. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

Communion:

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

The body of Christ. **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion:

May this divine sacrifice we have offered and received fill us with life, O Lord, we pray, so that, bound to you in lasting charity, we may bear fruit that lasts for ever.

Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Concluding Rite:Final Blessing:

May the Lord bless us,  protect us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ! **Thanks be to God.**