

November 8th



# 32nd Sunday of Ordinary Time

## OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray: God of power and mercy, protect us from all harm. Give us freedom of spirit and health in mind and body to do your work on earth. We ask this...

## FIRST READING

(This reading portrays the total self-giving of the widow of Zarephath who fed Elijah with whatever little she had and is rewarded with a miracle. We must be charitable towards the needy neighbour even when we have only bare essentials for ourselves.)

A reading from the First Book of the Kings (17:10-16)

Elijah went to Zarephath; and when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks; and he called to her and said, "Bring me a little water in a vessel, that I may drink." And as she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, "Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." And she said, "As the Lord your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a cruse; and now, I am gathering a couple of sticks, that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die." And Elijah said to her, "Fear not; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make for yourself and your son. For thus says the Lord the God of Israel, 'The jar of meal shall not be spent, and the cruse of oil shall not fail, until the day that the Lord sends rain upon the earth.'" And she went and did as Elijah said; and she, and he, and her household ate for many days. The jar of meal was not spent, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord which he spoke by Elijah. This is the Word of the Lord

## PSALM (145)

Response: My soul, give praise to the Lord.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. R./

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down. It is the Lord who loves the just, the Lord, who protects the stranger. R./

He upholds the widow and orphan but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. R./

## SECOND READING

(The author of the Letter to the Hebrews makes a distinction between the sacrifices offered by the high priests and the non-repeatable self-sacrifice of Jesus. Christ our high priest offered himself in sacrifice once for all, for his sacrifice has infinite value.)

### **A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews (9:24-28)**

Christ has entered, not into a sanctuary made with hands, a copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the Holy Place yearly with blood not his own; for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the age to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. And just as it is appointed for men to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him. This is the Word of the Lord

### **ACCLAMATION (Mt 24:42,44)**

Alleluia, alleluia! Watch and be ready, for the Son of man is coming at an hour you do not expect. Alleluia!

### **GOSPEL**

(In today's gospel Jesus makes a distinction between the scribes who long to devour the property of widows and a widow who puts her whole living in the treasury of the Temple. Jesus warns the people to beware of and not to imitate the hypocrisy of the Scribes.)

### **A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Mark (12:38-44)**

In his teaching Jesus said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to go about in long robes, and to have salutations in the market places and the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honour at feasts, who devour widows' houses and for a pretence make long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation." And Jesus sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the multitude putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. And a poor widow came, and put in two copper coins, which make a penny.

And he called his disciples to him, and said to them, "Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For they all contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, her whole living." This is the Gospel of the Lord