

# 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

WHEN WE THINK about Christianity, the prophets and 12 disciples may not be the first things that come to mind. Yet it was their bold, persevering faith that led to the spread of the Good News about God's kingdom amid the persecution of Christians at that time.

Today's readings illuminate the critical role of God's messengers, and the hope and renewed lives their transformative messages promised to those who welcomed them. In the Gospel, Jesus reveals the great sacrifice and reward for his followers. As he instructs the disciples on their gruelling mission, he tells them to bear their crosses in order to find eternal life. Jesus in effect stresses the greatest

commandment – to love God above anything and anyone else.

It's a lofty challenge for us as Christ's followers today. Yet Jesus' message is about redemption rather than perfection. Welcoming him into our lives with our little acts of love and sacrifice matters – just as those who give even a little cup of water to his messengers will be rewarded.

While it may not be realistic for us to achieve the same level of sacrifice for God as his early messengers, God shows his love is merciful. We praise him for his redeeming messages. Thanks to the sacrifices of the courageous prophets and disciples, we can find life through our faithfulness to God.

*Christl Dabu  
Ajax, ON*

*Roman Missal p. 449; Sunday Lectionary p.475*

### Entrance Antiphon (Psalm 46.2)

**All peoples, clap your hands. Cry to God with shouts of joy!**

### Introductory Rites (p. 5)

#### Collect

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.**

#### First Reading (2 Kings 4.8-12a, 14-16)

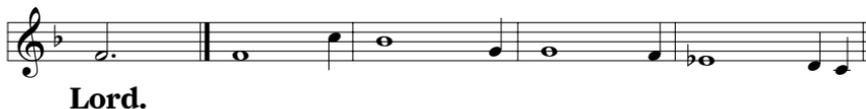
One day Elisha was passing through Shunem, where a wealthy woman lived, who urged him to have a meal. So whenever he passed that way, he would stop there for a meal. She said to her husband, “Look, I am sure that this man who regularly passes our way is a holy man of God. Let us make a small roof chamber with walls, and put there for him a bed, a table, a chair, and a lamp, so that he can stay there whenever he comes to us.”

One day when Elisha came there, he went up to the chamber and lay down there. He said to his servant Gehazi, “What then may be done for the woman?” Gehazi answered, “Well, she has no son, and her husband is old.” Elisha said, “Call her.” When the servant had called her, she stood at the door. Elisha said, “At this season, in due time, you shall embrace a son.”

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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*Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 89)* —————



**R. Forever I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord.**

I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, for-**ever**;  
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all  
gener-**ations**.

I declare that your steadfast love is established for-**ever**;  
your faithfulness is as firm **as the** heavens. *R.*

Blessed are the people who know the festal **shout**,  
who walk, O Lord, in the light of your **countenance**;  
they exult in your name all day **long**,  
and extol **your** righteousness. *R.*

For you are the glory of their **strength**;  
by your favour our horn is ex-**alted**.  
For our shield belongs to the **Lord**,  
our king to the Holy One **of** Israel. *R.*

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*Second Reading (Romans 6.3-4, 8-11)* —————

Brothers and sisters: All of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death. Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised

from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel Acclamation** (See 1 Peter 2.9)

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation. Praise God who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. **Alleluia.**

### **Gospel** (Matthew 10.37-42)

The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew. **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 their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.

“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives

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even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple — truly I tell you — that person will not lose their reward.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### Profession of Faith (p. 8)

#### Prayer of the Faithful

*The following intentions are suggestions only. There are more suggestions at [www.livingwithchrist.ca](http://www.livingwithchrist.ca)*

℣. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the Church and its mission to the weary and the burdened, we pray to the Lord: ℣.

For world leaders committed to promoting the wellbeing of all citizens, we pray to the Lord: ℣.

For those who minister to the poor, the lonely and the vulnerable, we pray to the Lord: ℣.

For our community, dedicated to proclaiming the good news of a compassionate God, we pray to the Lord: ℣.

### Preparation of the Gifts (p. 10)

#### Prayer over the Offerings

O God, who graciously accomplish the effects of your mysteries, grant, we pray, that the deeds by which we serve you may be worthy of these sacred gifts. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Preface (Sundays in Ordinary Time, p. 12)

**Communion Antiphon** (Cf. Psalm 102.1)

**Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all within me, his holy name.**

*or*

*(John 17.20-21)*

**O Father, I pray for them, that they may be one in us, that the world may believe that you have sent me, says the Lord.**

**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.**

**Blessing and Dismissal** (p. 31)