



USCCaruso  
Catholic Center

## Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Family Prayer Service

**Presider:** In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit

Let us acknowledge the times which we have not been faithful to God.

Penitential Rite A

**All:** I confess to almighty God  
and to you, my brothers and sisters,  
that I have greatly sinned,  
in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,  
(striking your breast, say:)  
through my fault, through my fault,  
through my most grievous fault;  
(Then continue with:)  
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,  
all the Angels and Saints,  
and you, my brothers and sisters,  
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

**Opening Prayer:**

**Presider:** 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.

**All: Amen**

**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

## Responsorial Psalm

*Psalm 89:2-3, 16-17, 18-19 (2a)*

**R. Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

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. Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

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. Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.** You are the splendor of their strength, and by your favor our horn is exalted. For to the LORD belongs our shield, and to the Holy One of Israel, our king.

**R. Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

## A Reading from the Letter of St. 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

**Alleluia:**

*1 Peter 2:9*

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation; announce the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

**R. Alleluia, alleluia**

**A Reading from the Holy Gospel According to Matthew:**

*Matthew 10:37-42*

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

**Reflection/Family Discussion on the readings and Gospel:**  
by Fr. Joe Kim, OFM Conv.

---

Homi-flection for the Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Hospitality. What is hospitality? How do you understand it? I assume for many of us, we understand hospitality as it was given and received in our first reading from 2 Kings. We welcome people into our homes and see to their needs. We show hospitality to visitors to our homes. We show hospitality to those come to our churches. But to truly appreciate the grace and blessing of hospitality requires us to focus in on the relationship of the persons giving and receiving this generosity. If we set the bar measured by our western cultural norm, it is action of goodness and kindness – to treat others as we hope to be treated. But to truly understand what God is asking of us today in our scriptures, we need to understand hospitality as Jesus would have experienced and understood it – and to do that, we need to see what hospitality means to our brothers and sisters of the various cultures of the Middle East.

Although there are many ways and terms that one could use, I would like to try to capture the essence of Middle Eastern hospitality. It goes far beyond simple acts of sharing and kindness; it requires true sacrifice. Oftentimes what is needed for their families and lives are shared and given to visitors and strangers. To put it into perspective, would you be willing to spend your entire paycheck for the month to lavishly and gratuitously (means almost wastefully) provide for visitors, or strangers? In providing hospitality, now your rent or mortgage is unpaid, your family goes hungry. Shryock, in his book, *The New Jordanian Hospitality: House, Host, and Guest in the Culture of Public Display*, puts it this way: “Hospitality is the Arab madness...we do karam (hospitality) to excess. We waste food and spend all our wages to impress guests...and sometimes we don't even have enough money to clothe our children and send them to good schools”. Is it matter of personal or family pride? Of culture? Of expectations? Yes, I am sure these reasons play a part, but it goes further. "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares" – in the same way Abraham showed hospitality to angels unaware, can you welcome others into your house because they may have been sent by God. Perhaps now you might understand why Jesus invites us to wrestle with his words in the gospel today in the way he presents it.

Can you love God more than your family? Can you love visitors, even strangers, even enemies more than family? Will you allow your life and heart to be transformed to love, care and welcome others as God loves, cares, and welcomes us? In doing so, we allow ourselves to truly live our faith and actualize the kingdom of God in our lives and world. We are ministers of the Gospel and the blessings of grace. We are recipients as well. We come to truly know God and know ourselves and our relationship with others. We are truly bound to one another. We are precious, valuable, beloved. We are one family, one body in Christ.

*How do you understand hospitality? What are the ways in which you have either given it or been recipients of it in your life and relationships?*

*When have you failed to show hospitality to others or have withheld it? Why?*

*In what ways can you show greater hospitality in the manner that God gratuitously bestows it to us?*

*Why is hospitality essential to loving God and others?*

**Nicene Creed:**

**ALL:** 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)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

(raise from bow)

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

**Presider:** We bring our prayers to God, whose love for us has no end.

**Intercessions:**

1. That our Church and parish community may be a place of welcome to the poor, troubled, and the lost: *(Pause for silent prayer)*.  
**All:** Lord, hear us.
2. That those who serve our Church as pastors, teachers, and ministers may proclaim the victory of Christ crucified: *(Pause for silent prayer)*.  
**All:** Lord, hear us.
3. That all families, households, and communities may find, in Christ, neither division nor discord, but the source of love, compassion, and reconciliation: *(Pause for silent prayer)*.  
**All:** Lord, hear us.
4. That those who work to provide human services to the poor, the suffering, the abused, and the forgotten may one day receive “a prophet reward” for their perseverance and commitment: *(Pause for silent prayer)*.  
**All:** Lord, hear us.
5. That, in our service to the sick, the recovering, and the dying, we may serve Christ Jesus: *(Pause for silent prayer)*.  
**All:** Lord, hear us.
6. That God will raise to the new life of Christ all who have died in God’s peace: *(Pause for silent prayer)*.  
**All:** Lord, hear us.

**Presider:** We humbly bring our intercessions to you O Lord, trusting in You to answer them on your time not on our time.

**Our Father:**

**Presider:** At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**All:**

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.

Amen

**Sign of Peace:**

**Presider:** Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you; look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever.

**All:** Amen

**Presider:**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**All:**

And with your spirit.

**Presider:**

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

(At this time please offer a moment of silence before the Spiritual Communion is said.)

**Spiritual Communion:**

**All:** I wish my Lord, to receive you with the purity, humility and devotion with which your most holy Mother received you, with the spirit and fervor of the saints

**Closing Prayer:**

**Presider:** 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.

**All:** Amen