

Cycle A – Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, June 28, 2026

"Whoever welcomes me ..."

OPENING PRAYER (Psalm 89)

Leader: I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever;
with my mouth I will proclaim
your faithfulness to all generations.

All: I declare that your steadfast love
is established forever;
Your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

Leader: Happy are those who know the festal shout,

All: they exult in your name all day long,
and extol your righteousness.
Amen.



First Reading – 2 Kings 4:8-12a, 14-16)

This story, with a clear beginning-middle-end, illustrates that not all rich people are bad, and not all prophets are rejected. The wealthy woman, clearly in charge, cares for Elisha without any self-interest, yet the prophet wishes to repay her – a connection with today's Gospel. Echoing the story of Sarah and Abraham all over again, Elisha prophesies the one thing which her wealth cannot buy: a son. The woman responds in much the same way as her elderly ancestors did: I do not need to be rewarded, and do not give me false hope, but what a joy this would be.

1. How do you practice hospitality – in your family, in your parish, at work?
2. What are some of your heart's desires which money cannot buy?

Second Reading – Romans 6:3-4, 8-11

Paul's emphasis on the transforming effects of baptism is so central, that this reading is included in the Easter Vigil, the yearly immersion into death and new life of catechumens. For Paul, the reasons why Christians cease to be slaves to sin is because baptism unites us to Christ and thus results in a separation from sin. Normally the consequences of death are negative only, but in our case death in the baptismal rite separates us from sin and unites us to Christ.

1. How has your own understanding of baptism developed over the years?
2. Give some concrete examples of this separation from sin and unity with Christ.

Gospel Reading – Matthew 10:37-42

For those raised in Christian families Jesus' words, about relatives being obstacles to the faith, may sound strange. But those who have joined the church as adults might relate to his words very well. Jesus is to be our primary relationship of love second to none, not even to our closest kin. Again, adult converts to the Christian faith may well relate better to Jesus' summons to lose one's life in order to find it than do born Christians, thus calling us all to ongoing and radical surrender. The instructions on hospitality link this Gospel passage to the first reading.

1. Have your relatives ever been an obstacle to your Christian faith?
2. Have you ever been forced to choose between Jesus and someone/something you love very dearly?
3. Recall a time when you welcomed someone who affected your faith in Jesus.

LIVING THE WORD

God's challenge – Seek out, and make contact with, new members in your parish.

PRAYING THE WORD

Intercession: We pray for our relatives and next of kin who struggle with the Gospel, for newcomers in our parish and town/city, and for those who search for belonging and hospitality. We pray to the Lord.

(Invite personal intentions, ending with "Our Father...")

Concluding Prayer:

Leader: Holy Trinity, communion of unending welcome,
take us into your circle of love.

**All: Live in our heart as the flame of loving welcome
to the stranger, the lowly, to our own kin.**

Leader: We declare our desire and readiness
to lose our life for your sake in order to find it.

**All: We give thanks and praise for your goodness and love,
and pledge to be your servants of hospitality.
Amen.**

Leader: Let us share with one another a sign of Christ's peace.