

**THIRTY-SECOND
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

YEAR B

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Lord God,
you know we are young
and cannot do for you
everything we would like.
Look on us with kindness,
accept our little prayers
and the good things
we try to do for each other.
What we can do
we do for you
and Jesus, your Son,
and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

FOCUS OF THE READINGS:

The focus of our readings is giving generously — not of excess, but from our need. Underlying this giving, of course, is faith. Faith allowed the widow to give all she had to live on at the request of the prophet Elijah. She was rewarded by God's generosity. In the Gospel, Jesus praises a "poor widow" for giving two small coins to the temple treasury. Her gift was praised by Jesus, not for its amount, but because it was all she had to live on and thus was an expression of her faith and total gift of self. We may be assured that his praise was accompanied by salvation since the Gospel consistently assumes faith and total surrender as prerequisite for salvation.

FIRST READING: *I Kings 17:10-16*

This is a reading from the first book of Kings.

When the prophet Elijah
went to the city of Zarephath,
he saw a widow gathering sticks to build a fire.

He said to her,

"Please bring me some water to drink."

The woman was going to get the water,
and Elijah called to her and said,

"Please bring me a little bread also."

The woman said,

"As sure as your God lives,
I do not have any bread baked right now.
I have only a little bit of flour in a jar
and a little oil.
I was just gathering sticks to build a fire
so that I can make some bread
for my son and myself.
But after we eat that,
we have no more food and so we will die."

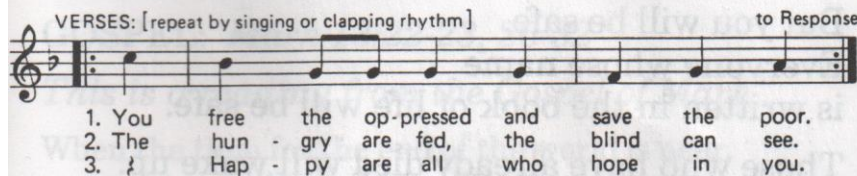
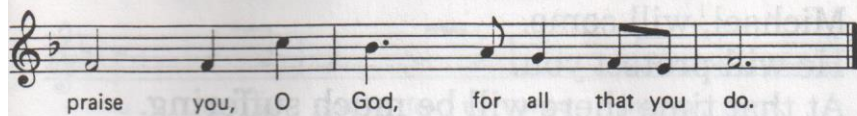
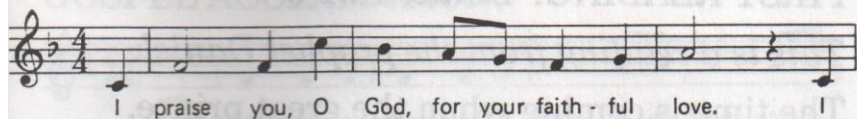
Elijah said to her,

"Go in and make the bread
for your son and yourself.
But first, make some for me.
And don't be afraid, for my God says,
'The jar of flour and the bottle of oil
will not go empty.'"

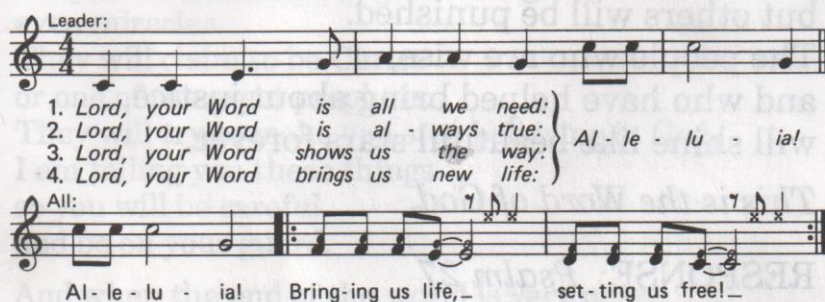
The woman went and did
just what Elijah told her.
And she and her son and Elijah
were able to eat for a long time,
for the jar of flour and the bottle of oil
did not go empty,
just as God had said
through the prophet Elijah.

This is the Word of God.

RESPONSE: Psalm 146



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:



GOSPEL: Mark 12:41-44

This is a reading from the Gospel of Mark.

One day as Jesus was near the temple,
he saw the people
coming to put money into the collection box.
Many rich people came
and put in a lot of money.
But a poor lady, who was a widow,
came and put in only two small coins.
It was worth only one penny.
When Jesus saw this, he said to his disciples,

“This poor widow
has given more to the collection
than all the others.
The rich people gave money
that they didn’t really need.
For them, it was extra money.
But this poor widow has very little money
and she needs all of it to live on.
Yet she gave everything she had.”

This is the Good News of the Lord.

REFLECTING ON THE READINGS WITH CHILDREN:

After the first reading, ask the children to retell this marvelous story. Help them to recall the details, the dialogue. Finish the retelling with the last line, the heart of the story,

“for the jar of flour and the bottle of oil did not go empty, just as God had said through the prophet Elijah.”

After reading the Gospel, ask the children to retell this story. What it lacks in detail, it provides in tenderness and imagination. Though this widow is not described nor does she speak, we might imagine her. We might see her through Jesus’ eyes.

- Why does Jesus praise this poor widow?
- How is she like the woman in the first reading?
- What does God promise when we give truly from our hearts?

Help the children understand that these stories teach us that God calls us to be generous. Not always with money (Gospel) but in sharing what we have (first reading).

An alternative to a direct reading might be to act out this little Gospel passage. Ask several children to take the part of the rich, each putting in their offering with great flair. The poor widow is so hidden among them that she is noticed only by Jesus.

Others will be disciples with Jesus. The only words spoken are those of Jesus as he sees the widow, placing her coins in the treasury.

“This poor widow. . .”