

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR A

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

God,
through your Son, Jesus,
you reached out to people
in every kind of need.
Use us in the same way,
so that by our words
and actions,
others may feel
the power of your love.
We ask you this
through Christ, our Lord.

FOCUS OF THE READINGS:

The focus of our readings is the welcome given to the person who brings God's Word.

In the first reading, we have a delightful story about a woman who goes to great efforts to offer hospitality to the prophet Elisha, a holy man of God. Everything was done to make the prophet welcome in their home.

In the Gospel, Jesus says, "Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me." He praises those who welcome the prophets and holy people.

FIRST READING: 2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16

This is a reading from the second book of Kings.

When the prophet Elisha went to the town of Shunem, a wealthy woman who lived there invited him to eat in her home. After that, whenever Elisha was in that town, he would stop at her home to eat. One day the woman said to her husband,

"I can tell that Elisha is a holy man of God. Let's prepare a room upstairs for him. We will put in it a bed, a table, a chair and a lamp. Then, whenever he comes, he can stay there."

The next time Elisha came, he stayed in the room they had prepared for him. He was very grateful for all the kindness the woman had shown him, so he said to his servant Gehazi,

"Is there anything I can do for her?"

Gehazi answered,

"Well, she doesn't have any children, and her husband is getting old now."

Elisha said,

"Call her and ask her to come here."

When the woman came, Elisha said to her,

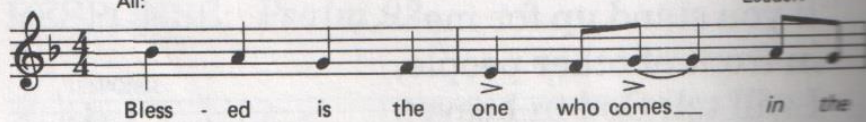
"I promise you that by this time next year, you will have a child."

The Word of the Lord.

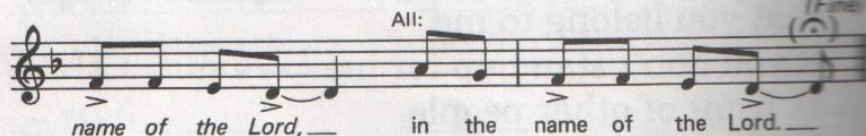
RESPONSE: Psalm 118

RESPONSE:
All:

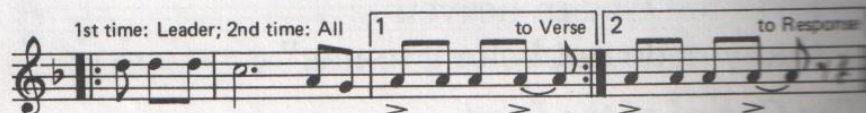
Leader:



Bless - ed is the one who comes in the



name of the Lord, in the name of the Lord.



- 1st time: Leader; 2nd time: All 1 to Verse 2 to Response
1. I will re-joice
 2. I will give thanks
 3. I will give praise
 4. I will have life
 5. For I am saved
- in the name of the Lord. name of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

ACCLAMATION:

All: Bless - ed is the one who comes in the

All: name of the Lord, in the name of the Lord. (Fine)

1st time: Leader; 2nd time: All 1 to Verse 2 to Response

Al-le-lu - ia! in the name of the Lord, name of the Lord.

GOSPEL: *Matthew 10:37-42*

This is a reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples,

["If you want to belong to me,
you must love me more than anyone.
You must be willing to carry your cross
and follow me.
If you are willing to give your life
because you believe in me,
you will live forever.]

"Anyone who makes you feel welcome,
makes me feel welcome.
And anyone who welcomes me,
welcomes the one who sent me.
Anyone who accepts a prophet
will be rewarded like a prophet.
Anyone who welcomes a holy person
will get the same reward as a holy person.
And anyone who gives
even a cup of cold water
to someone who belongs to me,
will be rewarded."

The Gospel of the Lord.

[] Reader may omit text that appears in brackets.

REFLECTING ON THE READINGS WITH CHILDREN:

The reflections should focus on the various ministers of the Word in the church. Gradually, the children should be led to see that these ministers do the work of Jesus and that when we accept their ministry we are accepting Jesus.

You might begin by suggesting some necessary ministers:

- catechists,
- ministers of the Word with children,
- priests,
- those who teach scripture.

How do these people bring God's Word to us? Who are these people in our parish?

Because they bring God's Word to us, we should welcome them. How can we welcome or accept these people who bring God's Word to us? What does Jesus tell us about welcoming these people?

You will also want to encourage the children to reflect on ways in which *they, too*, are "ministers of the Word." It is our responsibility to be "ministers of the Word" in the way we live. All of the other "ministers" (catechists, priests, and so forth) are there to nourish the community, which is the primary "minister of the Word" in the world. That includes all of us: to serve the poor; to stand up for what is right.