

July 2, 2017
13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Take up our cross and follow ME.

2 Kings 4:8-11;14-16a

Psalm 89:2-2;16-19

Romans 6:3-4;8-11

Matthew 10:37-42

In the first reading Elisha dines with a woman of influence who recognizes him as a holy man of God. She sets aside a room for him when he travels her way. Her reward is that she will receive a son, something she has long yearned for but now seems impossible.



The psalmist speaks of the mercy, kindness, and faithfulness of the Lord towards his people who rejoice in His name, and are exalted by his justice, and confident in the protection they receive from the Holy One of Israel. They walk in God's light and are happy enough to joyfully shout about it.

In the second reading Paul explains that by being baptized in Christ we are buried with him and will rise with him in order to live a new life. We need to die to sin and live for God in Christ Jesus.

In the Gospel Jesus notes that our love for him must be above all else and we are worthy of salvation when we take up our cross and follow him. If we only seek for ourselves it will bring us to ruin but if we bring ourselves to naught we will discover ourselves. We are to welcome and help even the lowly and not show preferences and favoritism.

The Father sent the Son to die for us,
And the Holy Spirit guides us to die to sin
In order that we may truly live.

Among the themes of today's readings are hospitality, singing, and silence. The hospitality of the woman towards Elisha is exemplary and she was rewarded accordingly. In the Gospel Jesus mentions the welcoming of prophets, holy people, and even the least among us and each carries its eventual unknown reward. The psalmist mentions the happiness of those who know "joyful shouts." To us this may refer to ourselves as active singers at mass and not just listeners. Paul's topics of baptism and death are realities we need to contemplate in the silence of our hearts.

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