

## Thirteenth Sunday | Year A

July 02<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 (2 Kgs 4:8-11, 14-16a | Romans 6:3-4, 8-11 | Matthew 10:37-42)

Because of the hospitality that the Woman from Shunem shows to Elisha, God promises to bless her and her husband with a son. Let us ask God to bless us and to hear our prayers.

1/ Let us forever sing the promises of the Lord, for he has shown us his goodness and mercy. For all peoples and nations that fear God. We pray that Pope Francis and spiritual leaders do well in guiding the faithful to praise God and his salvation. Let us pray.

2/ Paul tells the Romans that their baptism into Jesus Christ means that their old selves died with the death of Jesus. But their faith in God lives with Jesus's resurrection. For those who have not died to selves because they have not yet known God. We pray that all the goodness that they see and experience in life may open their hearts to God. Let us pray.

3/ By telling his disciples that whoever loves father or mother more than him is not worthy of him, Jesus implies that he himself and God must be the disciples' ultimate end. Nothing of this world means more than God and Jesus. For those who seek the lures of this world. We pray that the gospel about Jesus may awaken them, so that they can turn to God. Let us pray.

4/ Jesus assures us that whoever gives a cup of cold water to one of his disciples, that person will not lose their reward in heaven. For Christians represent the image of God and Jesus on earth. For our sisters and brothers who, in life, shared goodness to other Christians, but have now departed from us. We pray that God reward them eternal life. Today we remember **[at 4:30 PM]** Thelma and John Perguson; **[at 10:00 AM]** Nick Ford. Let us pray.

God in highest heaven, the light of Jesus has scattered the darkness of hatred and sin. As we are called to that light, we ask for your guidance. Form our lives in your truth, and our hearts in your love. We ask this in the name of Jesus our Lord.