

## Readings for November 10, 2024

### 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

#### First Reading: 1 Kings 17:8-16

*This chapter begins the story of Elijah. God sends a drought on Israel because of the sins of King Ahab. This passage depicts God's saving acts not only on behalf of Elijah, but also on behalf of those who are associated with the prophet, even a foreigner, the widow of Zarephath.*

<sup>8</sup>The word of the Lord came to [Elijah,] saying, <sup>9</sup>“Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there, for I have commanded a widow there to feed you.” <sup>10</sup> So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, “Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink.” <sup>11</sup> As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, “Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” <sup>12</sup> But she said, “As the Lord your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die.” <sup>13</sup> Elijah said to her, “Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said, but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make something for yourself and your son. <sup>14</sup> For thus says the Lord the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the Lord sends rain on the earth.” <sup>15</sup> She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. <sup>16</sup> The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord that he spoke by Elijah.

## Psalm: Psalm 146

*The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down. (Ps. 146:8)*

<sup>1</sup> Hal-<sup>l</sup> lelujah!

Praise the Lord,<sup>l</sup> O my soul!

<sup>2</sup> **I will praise the Lord as long<sup>l</sup> as I live;**

**I will sing praises to my God while I<sup>l</sup> have my being.**

<sup>3</sup> Put not your<sup>l</sup> trust in rulers,

in mortals in whom there<sup>l</sup> is no help.

<sup>4</sup> **When they breathe their last, they re-<sup>l</sup> turn to earth,**

**and in that day<sup>l</sup> their thoughts perish. R**

<sup>5</sup> Happy are they who have the God of Jacob<sup>l</sup> for their help,

whose hope is in the<sup>l</sup> Lord their God;

<sup>6</sup> **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that<sup>l</sup> is in them;**

**who keeps promis-<sup>l</sup> es forever;**

<sup>7</sup> who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to<sup>l</sup> those who  
hunger.

The Lord sets the<sup>l</sup> captive free.

<sup>8</sup> **The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who<sup>l</sup> are  
bowed down;**

**the Lord<sup>l</sup> loves the righteous. R**

<sup>9</sup> The Lord cares<sup>l</sup> for the stranger;

the Lord sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way<sup>l</sup> of the  
wicked.

<sup>10</sup> **The Lord shall<sup>l</sup> reign forever,**

**your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.<sup>l</sup> Hallelujah! R**

## **Second Reading: Hebrews 9:24-28**

*The letter to the Hebrews describes Christ as a high priest who offers himself as a sacrifice for our sin. Christ does not die again and again each year. He died once, is alive with God, and will reveal himself on the last day.*

<sup>24</sup> Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands, a mere copy of the true one, but he entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. <sup>25</sup> Nor was it to offer himself again and again, as the high priest enters the holy place year after year with blood that is not his own, <sup>26</sup> for then he would have had to suffer again and again since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself. <sup>27</sup> And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once and after that the judgment, <sup>28</sup> so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

## **Gospel: Mark 12:38-44**

*After engaging in a series of public arguments with religious leaders in the temple, Jesus contrasts the proud and oppressive ways of those leaders with the sacrificial humility and poverty of the widow.*

<sup>38</sup> As [Jesus] taught, he said, “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces <sup>39</sup> and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! <sup>40</sup> They devour widows’ houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.”

<sup>41</sup> He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. <sup>42</sup> A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. <sup>43</sup> Then he called his disciples and said to them, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. <sup>44</sup> For all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”