

**THE TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**8th November 2009**

**First Reading** **1 Kings 17:8-16**  
**A reading from the first book of Kings**

*The widow made a little scone from her flour meal and brought it to Elijah.*

Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah [the prophet], saying, "Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you." 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." As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, "Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." 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."

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 afterwards make something for yourself and your son. 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."

She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. 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.

Hear the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm** **Psalms (145) 146**

**Response: Praise the Lord, my soul!**

It is he who keeps faith for ever,  
who is just to those who are oppressed.  
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,  
the Lord, who sets prisoners free.

**R.**

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,  
who raises up those who are bowed down.  
It is the Lord who loves the just,  
The Lord who loves the stranger.

**R.**

He upholds the widow and the orphan  
but thwarts the path of the wicked.  
The Lord will reign for ever,  
Zion's God from age to age.

**R.**

**Second Reading** **Heb. 9:24-28**

**A reading from the letter to the Hebrews**

*Christ offered himself only once to take the faults of many on himself.*

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. 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; 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 age to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself. And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgment, 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.

Hear the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!** Happy the poor in spirit;  
the kingdom of heaven is theirs! **Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL** **Mk 12:38-44**

**✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark**

**R. Glory to you Lord Christ.**

*This poor widow has put more in than all who contributed.*

As he taught, Jesus said, to the crowds "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honour at banquets! They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. 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. 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."

For the Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

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