



Liturgy Cycle A

## **Thirteenth Sunday Of The Year** **Hospitality Means An Open Heart**

### **Introduction**

Christ likened the Kingdom of God to a tree in a branches of which all the birds of the sky are able to find shelter. Therefore, in Christian community there should be no strangers, no outsiders, and no rejects. Everybody should feel welcome and at home. Christ accepts us, therefore we should accept one another.

### **First Reading (2 Kings 4:8-11.14-16)**

This tells how a woman showed great hospitality to the prophet Elisha because she recognized him as a man of God. It also tells us how she was rewarded by God for doing so.

### **Second Reading (Romans 6: 3-4,8-11)**

To be baptised means that through the grace and power of the risen Christ we have died to sin and live to holiness.

### **Gospel (Matthew 10:37-42)**

The first part insists on the necessity of the following Christ even to the point of death. The second part stresses the virtue of hospitality.

### **Prayer of the faithful**

Hospitality is above all the matter of the heart. Let us pray that we may learn from Christ, who always had an open, warm and welcoming heart for all who came to him.

R: lord, hear us in your love.

That Christians may give an example to the world by the way they accept the stranger into their midst. We pray in faith.

R: lord, hear us in your love.

That government leaders may encourage their people to be friendly and welcoming towards foreigners. We pray in faith.

R: lord, hear us in your love.



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**For all those who are homeless, for exiles and for refugees. We pray in faith.**

**R: lord, hear us in your love.**

**That we may try to give each person we meet some small sign of recognition and hospitality. We pray in faith.**

**R: lord, hear us in your love.**

### **Communion Reflection**

**So much of our lives are spent  
in keeping other people out.**

**We private rooms, private houses,  
private clubs and so on.**

**Of course there are times  
when everybody needs to be alone.  
Yet there is a sense in which  
our size as human beings can be measured  
by the circles we draw to take other people in.  
The smaller the circle, the smaller the person.**

**A strong person isn't afraid  
of people who are different from himself.  
A wise man welcomes them.  
By shutting them out he denies himself  
the riches of other people's experience.  
He starves his mind, and hardens his heart.**

**When a wise man names his brothers and sisters,  
he draws no circle smaller  
than the first one ever drawn on this earth.  
In the beginning God gave the earth its shape.  
He made it round. He included everybody.  
So should we.**