



Liturgy Cycle C

# **Thirteenth Sunday Of The Year**

## **On Not Turning Back**

### **Introduction**

We will see in today's Gospel how Jesus headed resolutely for Jerusalem even though he knew that death awaited him there. It's easy to make promises, and to undertake commitments, but it's not always easy to be faithful. It's all too easy, and all too common, to take back or to turn back. Let us think about this. Let us confess our sins' of infidelity, asking the Lord to forgive our weakness, selfishness and cowardice.

I confess to almighty God . . .

### **First Reading (I Kings 19:16, 19-21)**

This narrates the call of Elisha to succeed the prophet Elijah. Elisha's response is immediate and total.

### **Second Reading (Gal. 5:1, 13-18)**

Paul warns the Galatians that, despite their union with Christ and the gift of the Spirit, they still must struggle against the flesh which will do its utmost to lead them into sin and slavery.

### **Gospel (Luke 9:51-62)**

This tells how Jesus resolutely took the road to Jerusalem though he knew a shameful death awaited him there. He demands the same kind of unwavering commitment from those who choose to follow him.

### **Prayer Of The Faithful**

Let us pray for the grace to be faithful to our promises, commitments and obligations.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

For all those who follow Christ: that they may be faithful to their baptismal promises. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

For our political leaders: that they may be faithful to the promises they make, and persevere in their efforts to secure a society of justice and peace. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.



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**For married couples: that, when things go wrong, they may not go back on their promises, but go forward to a deeper love and commitment to one another. Let us pray to the Lord.**

**R: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For ourselves: that at all times we may strive to keep our vision clear and our goal in mind, so that even now we may experience the joy and inner peace that comes from being faithful. Let us pray to the Lord.**

**R: Lord, hear our prayer.**

### **Let us pray:**

**Teach us, good Lord, to serve you as you deserve: to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest; to labour and not to ask for any reward save that of knowing that we do your will. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.**

### **Communion Reflection**

**Whose woods these are I hardly know,  
his house is in the village though;  
he will not see me stopping here  
to watch his woods fill up with snow.**

**My little horse must think it queer  
to stop without a farmhouse near,  
between the woods and frozen lake  
the darkest evening of the year.**

**He gives his harness bells a shake  
to ask if there is some mistake;  
the only other sound is the sweep  
of easy wind and downy flake.**

**The woods are lovely, dark and deep,  
but I have promises to keep;  
and miles to go before I sleep,  
and miles to go before I sleep.**