



First Reading: (1 Kings 17:10-16) Elijah went to Zarephath; and when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks; and he called to her and said, "Bring me a little water in a vessel, that I may drink." And as she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, "Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." And 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 cruse; and now, I am gathering a couple of sticks, that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die." And Elijah said to her, "Fear not; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make for yourself and your son. For thus says the Lord the God of Israel, "The jar of meal shall not be spent, and the cruse of oil shall not fail, until the day that the Lord sends rain upon the earth." And she went and did as Elijah said; and she, and he, and her household ate for many days. The jar of meal was not spent, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord which he spoke by Elijah.

Ps 145:7-10

R. / My soul, give praise to the Lord.

Second Reading: (Heb 9:24-28) Christ has entered, not into a sanctuary made with hands, a copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the Holy Place yearly with blood not his own; for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the age to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. And just as it is appointed for men to die once, and after that comes 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.

Gospel: (Mk 12:38-44) In his teaching Jesus said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to go about in long robes, and to have salutations in the market places and the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at feasts, who devour



widows' houses and for a pretense make long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation." And he sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the multitude putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. And a poor widow came, and put in two copper coins, which make a penny. And he called his

disciples to him, and said to them, "Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For they all contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, her whole living."

REFLECTION

When God speaks, we must dare to trust. God fills the hearts of those who trust him. Indeed, our God is a God who fills, He gives in abundance. Emptiness in fullness is the story of letting God fill my empty places. Standing before His Fullness, our first step as Christians should be to acknowledge our emptiness and confess our thirst to be filled. God is weak in the front of a heart full of love and service. He fills such a heart with good things. He makes everything new for that person. Whatever be our hunger or thirst, He can satisfy us. Being fullness Himself, God fills us up and sent us for a mission of filling up others. Unfortunately, some take advantage of their office to cut the lion's share of the common good. They have turned to devour widow's houses, to abuse the weak, to sideline the orphan. Thus, stripping Jesus of his garments again and again. Jesus condemns this inadequate use or misuse of power against the poor. **Whenever justice converts power into authority, charity is at work in the human heart.** Let us ask for the silent generosity of the widow and her soundful audacity to risk everything simply because she trusted in God. "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in your faith, so that in the power of the Holy Spirit you may be rich in hope" (Rom 15, 13).