

**Sunday, March 5, 2023**

**The Second Sunday in Lent, Year A**

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

<sup>8</sup>The word of the HOLY ONE to Elijah was, <sup>9</sup>“Get up, go to Zarephath, which is part of Sidon, and settle there; watch now, I have commanded a widow woman there to provide for you.” <sup>10</sup>And Elijah got up and went to Zarephath. Then he came to the gate of the town, and look! a widow woman was there gathering sticks; so he called to her and said, “Bring me, please, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.” <sup>11</sup>She went to bring it, and he called to her and said, “Bring me, please, a bit of bread in your hand.” <sup>12</sup>Then she said, “As the HOLY ONE your God lives, if I had a cake. There is only a handful of flour in a jar, and a little oil in a jug. Now look, I am gathering two sticks, then I will go home and prepare the oil and flour for myself and for my son; we will eat it, and we will die.”

<sup>13</sup>Then Elijah said to her, “Fear not; go and do as you have said, only make me a little cake of it and bring it to me first, then make something for yourself and your son afterwards. <sup>14</sup>For thus says the HOLY ONE the God of Israel: The jar of flour will not empty and the jug of oil will not decrease until the day that the HOLY ONE grants rain upon the earth.” <sup>15</sup>She went and she did as Elijah said, and she and he, and her household, ate for many days. <sup>16</sup>The jar of flour did not empty and the jug of oil did not decrease according to the word of the HOLY ONE that God spoke through Elijah.

## **Psalm: Psalm 111:2-10**

<sup>2</sup>Great are the works of GOD,  
contemplated by all who delight in them.

<sup>3</sup>Splendor and majesty are her work,  
and her righteousness stands forever.

<sup>4</sup>She has gained renown for her wonderful deeds;  
the WOMB OF LIFE is gracious and abounds in mother-love.

<sup>5</sup>She provides fresh meat for those who revere her;  
she remembers her covenant perpetually.

<sup>6</sup>She has declared the strength of her works to her people,  
giving them the heritage of the nations.

<sup>7</sup>The works of her hands are truth and justice;  
trustworthy are all her precepts.

<sup>8</sup>They stand fast forever and ever,  
Executed in truth and uprightness.

<sup>9</sup>She sent redemption to her people;  
she has ordained her covenant forever.

Holy and awesome is her name.

<sup>10</sup>Awe of the AGELESS GOD is the beginning of wisdom;  
all those who do have good understanding.

Her praise endures forever.

## **Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 9:6–13**

<sup>6</sup>Now hear this: The one who sows sparingly, sparingly will also reap, and the one who sows in abundance, in abundance will also reap. <sup>7</sup>Each one must give as decided in your heart, not out of reluctance or under pressure, for “God loves a cheerful giver.” <sup>8</sup>And the power of God is able to grant you all every gift abundantly, so that always having enough of everything, you all may abound in every good work. <sup>9</sup>As it is written,

*“God scatters generously, and gives to the poor;  
God’s righteousness endures forever.”*

<sup>10</sup>The one who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed and increase the harvest of your righteousness. <sup>11</sup>Enriched in every way for every kind of generosity which will yield through us thanksgiving to God, <sup>12</sup>for the offering of this ministry does not only supply the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God.

<sup>13</sup>Through the character of this ministry you all glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your companionship with them and with all others.

## **Gospel: Matthew 14:13–21**

<sup>13</sup>Now when Jesus heard [about the death of John the Baptizer], he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. And when the crowds heard, they followed him on foot from the towns. <sup>14</sup>When he arrived, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them, and healed their sick. <sup>15</sup>Now by evening, the disciples came to him and said, “The place is deserted, and the time has gone; send the crowds away so that they can go into the villages and buy themselves food.” <sup>16</sup>Instead, Jesus said to them, “They do not need to leave; you all give them something to eat.” <sup>17</sup>They replied to him, “We do not have anything here but five loaves and two fish.” <sup>18</sup>Then Jesus said, “Bring them here to me.” <sup>19</sup>And he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass; he took the five loaves and the two fish, looked towards heaven, and blessed and broke them. He gave the loaves to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. <sup>20</sup>And all ate and were filled; and they took up the abundance of fragments, twelve baskets full. <sup>21</sup>Now those who ate were women and children, besides about five thousand men.