

**TENTH SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME**

**YEAR C**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

God of the living  
and of the dead,  
all our life comes from you.  
Look with love  
on those who are sick  
in mind or in body,  
and raise us up like Jesus  
to live with you forever.  
We make this prayer to you  
through Christ our Lord.

**FOCUS OF THE READINGS:**

Both of our readings focus on God's power over death. In the first reading, the prophet, Elijah, raises the son of the widow of Zarephath. In the Gospel, Jesus raises the son of the widow of Nain. In addition to the manifestation of God's power over death, we find in both stories the revelation of this power at work specifically in and through the words of the prophet Elijah and the words of Jesus. What is recognized is not simply the miracle, but who it is that acts. The widow's response to Elijah's miracle is, "Now I am sure that you are truly a man of God, and that God speaks through you." The response of the crowd at Nain is similar, "God has truly come to us." We have tried to highlight this two-fold focus, power over death and the power of the Word, in our psalm response and Gospel acclamation.

*Young man, get up, I tell you. You have given me life. I will tell others of the wonderful things you do.*

**FIRST READING: 1 Kings 17:8-9, 17-24**

*A reading from the first book of Kings.*

God said to the prophet Elijah,

"Go to the town of Zarephath.  
There is a widow living there  
who will feed you and take care of you."

While Elijah was staying there,  
the widow's son became so ill  
that he was no longer breathing.  
The widow said to Elijah,

"What do you have against me?  
Did you come to my home just to tell me  
that I am a sinner and to make my son die?"

Elijah said to her,

"Give me your son."

And he carried the boy upstairs to his room  
and laid him on his own bed.

Elijah bent over the boy three times and cried out to God,

"O God, I beg you to make this child alive again."

God heard the prayer of Elijah  
and brought the child back to life.

Elijah took the child downstairs to his mother  
and said to her,

"See, your son is alive!"

And the widow said to Elijah,

"Now I am sure that you are truly a man of God,  
and that God speaks through you."

*The Word of the Lord.*

**RESPONSE: Psalm 30**



Your law, O God, gives us hap-pi-ness, gives us hap-pi-ness and new life.



1. Your law, O God is good and just. — You help us all to fol-low your ways.
2. Your words — teach us what is right. — Your word, O God gives joy to my life.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Je-sus said for all\_ to hear: "Young\_ man, get up, I tell you."

Al - le - lu - ia, praise\_the Lord, al - le - lu - ia, praise the Lord!

## GOSPEL: *Luke 7:11-17*

*A reading from the Gospel of Luke.*

Jesus went to a town called Nain.

His disciples and a large group of people were with him.

As they were coming into the town, they saw some people carrying a stretcher with the body of a young man who had died.

This man was an only child, and his mother was a widow.

Many people from the town had come to be with her.

When Jesus saw the young man's mother, he felt very sorry for her, and he said to her,

"Don't cry."

Then he went over and touched the stretcher.

The people carrying it stopped. Jesus said,

"Young man, I say to you, get up!"

And the dead man sat up and began to speak.

Jesus took the boy over to his mother.

All the people were amazed and began to praise God, saying,

"This man is a great prophet!

God has truly come to us!"

Soon people all over Judea and all the neighboring countries heard about this wonderful thing that Jesus did.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

## REFLECTING ON THE READINGS WITH CHILDREN:

Both of these stories will appeal to children.

*After the first reading*, ask the children to recall what they heard. Ask them then to retell the story. Two aspects should be highlighted:

- 1) The power of God acting through Elijah.
- 2) Gratitude for life that leads to the psalm refrain.

The psalm prayer is truly ours as well because God has given us life, continually gives us life, and promises us life forever. *After the Gospel*, ask the children to recall the story. Take time to be aware of the feelings of the boy's mother and how Jesus treats her. What did Jesus do and say? And again we highlight:

- 1) The power of God in Jesus, "I say to you, get up."
- 2) Gratitude for life, "Soon people all over . . . heard about this wonderful thing Jesus did."

## Tenth Sunday of the Year

### Do not be sad

#### INTRODUCTION

We are God's children, and he wants each one of us to be happy. Jesus could not bear to see us sad and unhappy and always tried to change tragedy into celebration.

#### SIGN OF THE CROSS

#### LIGHT THE CANDLES

Light the candles and read:

There will be no more night, and we will not need lamps or sunlight, because the Lord God will be our light! (Revelation 22:5)

#### SORRY

Ask one of the children to choose a "sorry color," and to read the corresponding prayer aloud to the group.

#### GLORIA

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 6.

#### GOSPEL (LUKE 7:11-17)

A large crowd had followed Jesus and his disciples to a town, called Naim, where they met a funeral procession outside the gates of the town. A widow's only son had died, and she walked behind the procession crying sadly. Seeing this, Jesus was filled with great pity and said to the woman, "Do not cry."

Then he stopped the procession and said loudly, "Young man, get up!" At once the young man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus brought him to his mother. The woman and the crowd were filled with wonder and began to praise God, and soon everyone had heard about the marvelous thing which Jesus had done.

#### DISCUSSION

Why did Jesus take pity on the woman? The woman was a widow, and so her husband had already died. The young man had been her only child, and now that he was dead, too, she was

completely alone. Jesus saw her suffering and sadness and wanted to make her happy again. Jesus commanded the young man to get up, which is exactly what he did.

Imagine if you were in the crowd of mourners and saw this happening, what would you think? (Encourage the children to share their thoughts.)

Friends of the young man and his mother had joined the procession of sad people, or mourners, who were taking the dead man to be buried. They must have been surprised when this stranger stopped the procession, and filled with disbelief when he brought the dead man back to life!

Can you remember any of the other times when Jesus changed the sadness of death into the joy of new life?

- When he brought Lazarus out of the tomb;
- when he brought a little girl back to life;
- when he rose from the dead on Easter Sunday, the joyous event we remember at every Mass.

#### ACTIVITY

Copy the activity sheet, and cut out and fold the happy/sad faces. Staple them together at the top. Show the children how to place a pencil at the bottom of the paper and roll the top piece around it tightly. Move the pencil up and down to make the face change.

#### CREED

#### CLOSING PRAYER

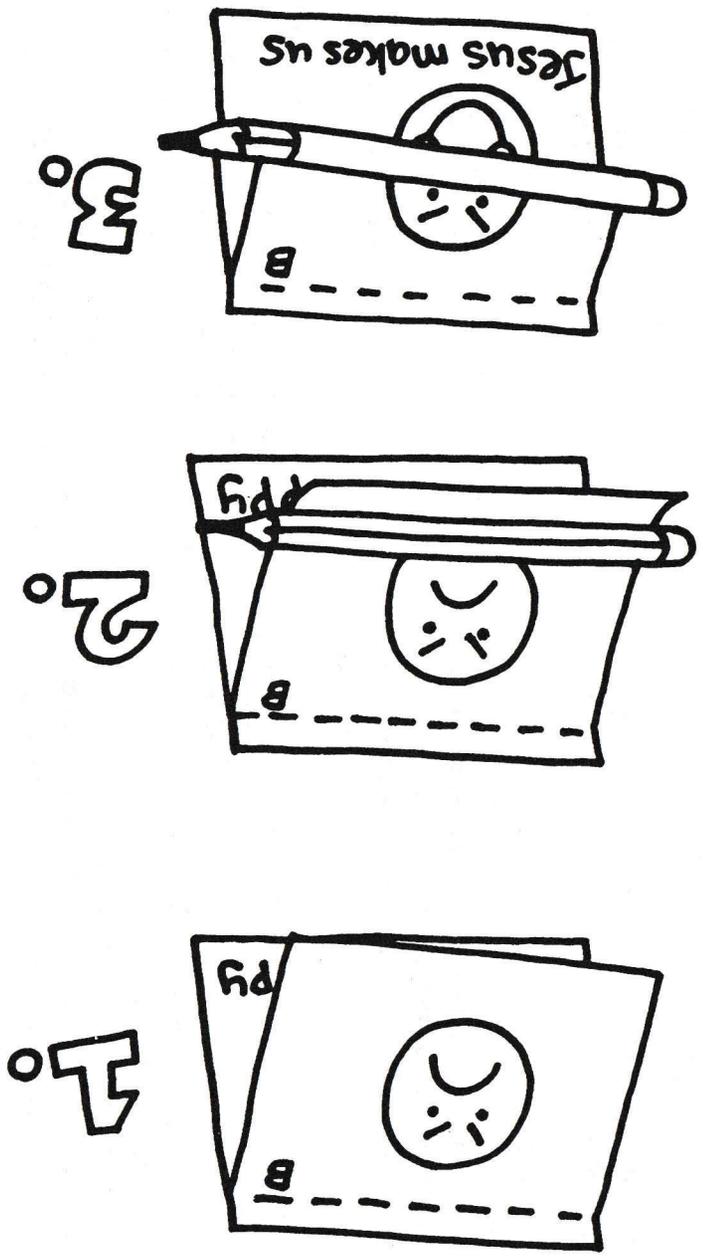
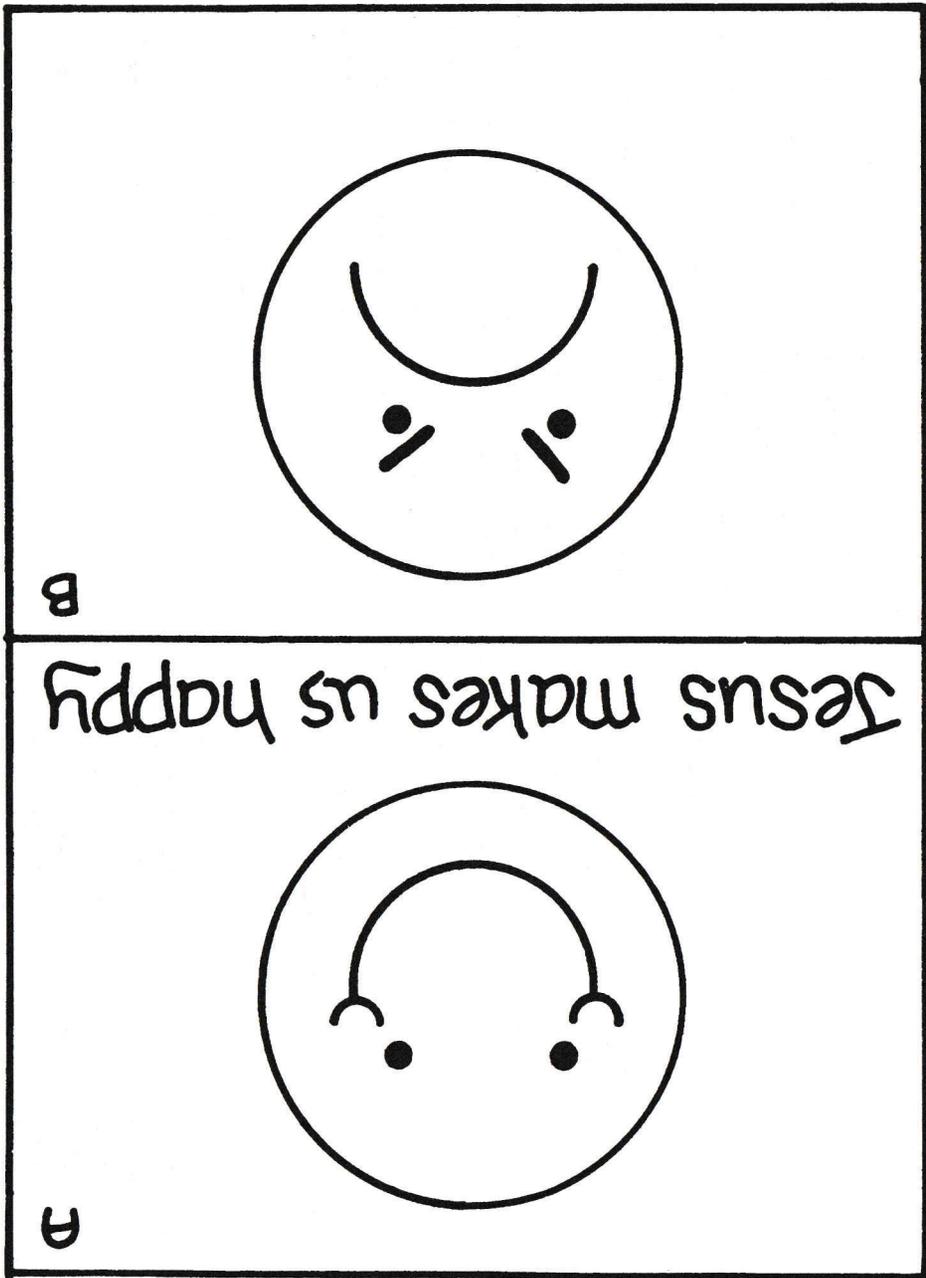
Let us pray for all those who have died and for their families and friends who are feeling sad...

*Lord, graciously hear us.*

Let us pray for anyone who is unhappy or alone; may Jesus touch their lives with his joy and love...

*Lord, graciously hear us.*

(Ask the children if there is anyone they know who needs a special mention or prayer.)



# Tenth Sunday of the Year

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## Focus

A Bible open at today's Gospel, together with a candle surrounded by fresh flowers or buds, and a crucifix with brown, dried leaves scattered around it.

## Introduction

Jesus understands and shares the grief we feel when someone dies. He himself wept at the death of his good friend Lazarus. In today's Gospel we glimpse the power and glory of God at work as Jesus takes pity on a woman and gives her back the son she had lost.

## Gloria

## Gospel Acclamation

Light the Gospel candle and sing Acclamation 8.

## Gospel

A reading from the Gospel of St Luke (7:11-17)  
(See page 389.)

## Reflection

*Why was the woman crying as she followed the procession?*

Her only son had died, and she was taking him to be buried. Funerals are often times of sadness as families and friends grieve for the person they loved that has died.

*How did Jesus react when he saw the woman's great sadness?*

Jesus knew how it felt to be sad. He too had experienced and shared moments of sadness during his life. He was deeply touched by the woman's distress and wanted to restore her hope and joy.

*What did he do?*

Jesus said, 'I am the Resurrection and the Life.' He has the power to turn death into new life. To everyone's amazement he stopped the funeral procession and commanded the dead man to get up. The young man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.

*Can you think of another occasion when a mother would weep at the death of her son, but later rejoice when he was restored to new life three days later?*

Mary wept at the foot of Christ's cross as she watched her beloved Son dying. Her heart was pierced with the sword of sadness as she held her dead son in her arms, before laying him in the tomb. Jesus transformed her sadness to joy and her despair to hope when he rose from the dead in glory three days later.

*When do we celebrate Christ's resurrection from the dead?*

We celebrate the mystery of the Resurrection in a very special way on Easter Sunday as well as every Sunday when we gather together as a Christian family to share the Eucharist together.

## Activity

Listen to these words written by St Paul:

Do not weep for those who have died, or be filled with sadness like those who have nothing to hope for. We believe that Jesus died and rose to new life, and that the same thing will happen to all who believe in him. Take comfort in knowing that everyone who dies in Christ will rise to new life and be with him for ever.

*(Adapted from 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)*

Invite the children to collect a leaf in memory of someone who has died. They touch the open Bible with it, before placing it at the base of the candle that is surrounded by fresh flowers or buds to represent new life. Allow a few moments for quiet reflection and prayer (with or without music).

Each child can be given a copy of a leaf with the words of St Paul to take home and keep.

## Intercessions

As brothers and sisters in one loving family, together let us pray to our heavenly Father:

We bring before God the Church and all her people.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We bring before God those who have died and those who miss them.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We bring before God those who are suffering in mind or body.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We bring before God the needs of this family of faith.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Knowing that our heavenly Father is listening,  
In the silence of our hearts  
let us share our own unspoken prayers with him.

*Silence*

Loving Father,  
Christ your Son revealed your love and mercy to the world.

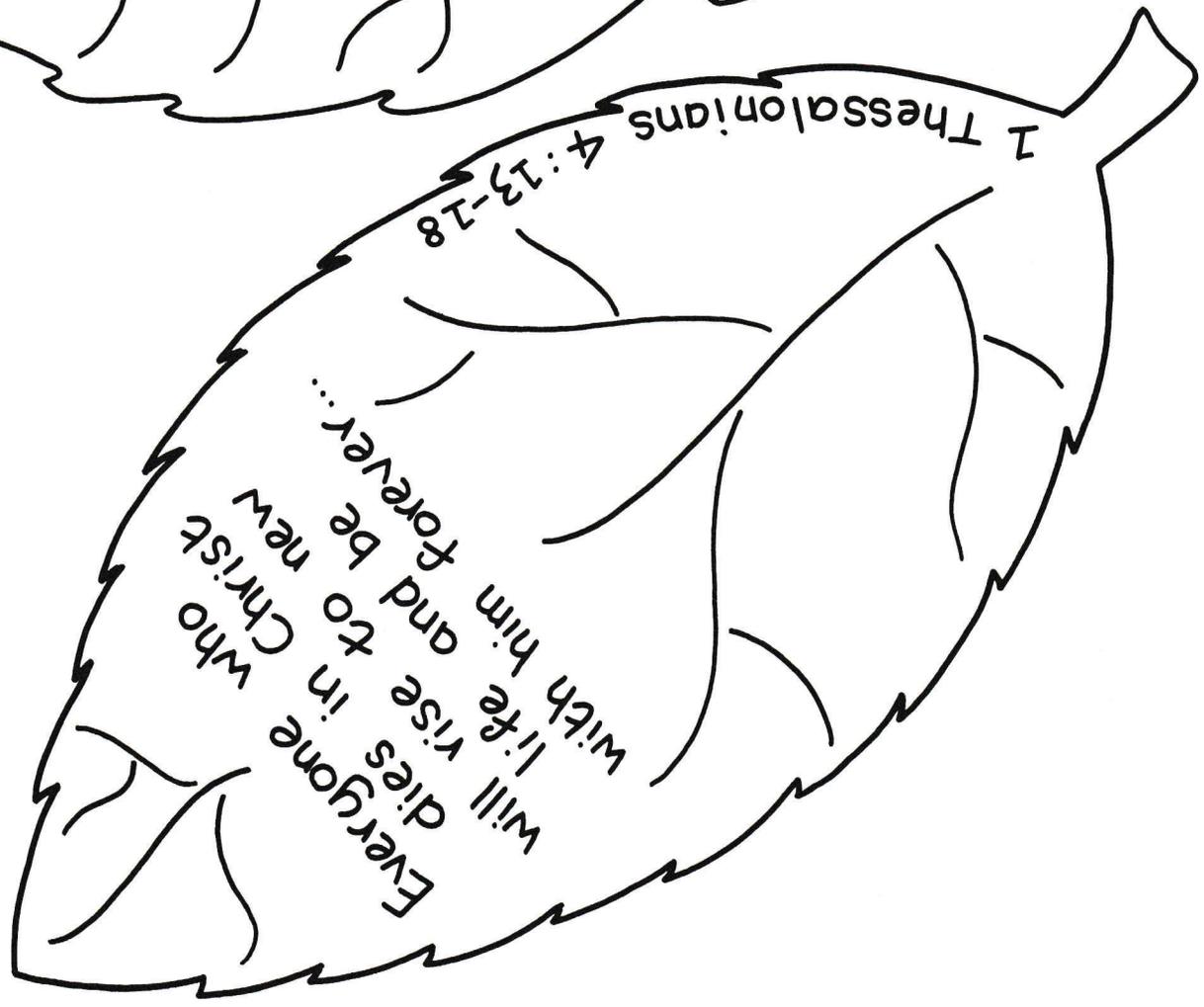
May our lives lead us to your kingdom  
and allow us to share your everlasting life.  
Grant this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**



Everyone  
who dies in  
Christ will  
rise to new  
life with  
him forever...

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18



Everyone who  
dies in Christ  
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1 Thessalonians 4:13-18