

and he stayed by the lakeside. Then one of the synagogue officials came up, Jairus by name, and seeing him, fell at his feet and pleaded with him earnestly, saying, 'My little daughter is desperately sick. Do come and lay your hands on her to make her better and save her life.' Jesus went with him and a large crowd followed him; they were pressing all round him.

While he was still speaking some people arrived from the house of the synagogue official to say, 'Your daughter is dead: why put the Master to any further trouble?' But Jesus had overheard this remark of theirs and he said to the official, 'Do not be afraid; only have faith.' And he allowed no one to go with him except Peter and James and John the brother of James.

So they came to the official's house and Jesus noticed all the commotion, with people weeping and wailing unrestrainedly. He went in and said to them, 'Why all this commotion and crying? The child is not dead, but asleep.' But they laughed at him. So he turned them all out and, taking with him the child's father and mother and his own companions, he went into the place where the child lay. And taking the child by the hand he said to her, 'Talitha, kum!' which means, 'Little girl, I tell you to get up.' The little girl got up at once and began to walk about, for she was twelve years old. At this they were overcome with astonishment, and he ordered them strictly not to let anyone know about it, and told them to give her something to eat.

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / B

27 JUNE 2021

**CREATED FOR LIFE**

All peoples, including people of faith, have wrestled with the mysteries of life and death from the dawn of time. The book of Wisdom was written late in the development of the Old Testament, and centuries of experience and reflection are found in its verses that speak about how God has created all things in order that we might experience God's love in the gift of life itself. Created in God's image, our ultimate goal is to live our lives in such a way that we reflect this life-giving love of God for us in our attitudes and behaviour.

The Christian communities of Corinth were invited by Paul to join with other communities in Galatia and Macedonia to provide support for the poor believers in Jerusalem who were suffering in the midst of famine. In his previous letter, Paul had spoken eloquently of how they were all part of the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12) and how this called them to a life of faith, hope, and love (1 Corinthians 13). Now was the time to live simply, giving of their excess, so that their brothers and sisters could simply live.

Jesus' actions in the Gospel today bear eloquent testimony to the claim of the book of Wisdom that we are created for life. Both Jairus' daughter and the woman with the haemorrhage will be lifted from their suffering by their encounter with Jesus. The woman's extraordinary faith leads her to reach out and touch Jesus' cloak resulting in her being restored to health. Jesus himself lifts up the young girl and brings her once again to the fullness of life.

**FIRST READING**

Wis 1: 13-15; 2: 23-24

**A reading from the book of Wisdom.**

*It was the devil's envy that brought death into the world.*

Death was not God's doing,  
he takes no pleasure in the extinction of the living.

To be – for this he created all;  
the world's created things have health in them,  
in them no fatal poison can be found,  
and Hades holds no power on earth;  
for virtue is undying.

Yet God did make man imperishable,  
he made him in the image of his own nature;  
it was the devil's envy that brought death into the world,

as those who are his partners will discover.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

**RESP PSALM**

Ps 29: 2, 4-6, 11-13. R. v. 2

**R. I will praise you, Lord,  
for you have rescued me.**

1. I will praise you, Lord, you have rescued me / and have not let my enemies rejoice over me. / O Lord, you have raised my soul from the dead, / restored me to life from those who sink into the grave. **R.**

2. Sing psalms to the Lord, you who love him, / give thanks to his holy name. / His anger lasts but a moment; his favour through life. / At night there are tears, but joy comes with dawn. **R.**

3. The Lord listened and had pity. / The Lord came to my help. / For me you have changed my mourning into dancing, / O Lord my God, I will thank you for ever. **R.**

**SECOND READING**

2 Cor 8: 7, 9, 13-15

**A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.**

*Your abundance should supply their want.*

You always have the most of everything – of faith, of eloquence, of understanding, of



keenness for any cause, and the biggest share of our affection – so we expect you to put the most into this work of mercy too. Remember how generous the Lord Jesus was: he was rich, but he became poor for your sake, to make you rich out of his poverty. This does not mean that to give relief to others you ought to make things difficult for yourselves: it is a question of balancing what happens to be your surplus now against their present need, and one day they may have something to spare that will supply your own need. That is how we strike a balance: as scripture says: The man who gathered much had none too much, the man who gathered little did not go short.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

cf. 2 Tim 1: 10

**Alleluia, alleluia! / Our Saviour Jesus Christ has done away with death / and brought us life through his gospel. / Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL**

Mk 5: 21-43

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.**

*Young girl, I say to you, arise.*

When Jesus had crossed in the boat to the other side, a large crowd gathered round him

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