

The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Luke 7:11-16

And it came to pass the day after, that He went into a city called Nain; and many of His disciples went with Him, and much people. Now when He came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow: and much people of the city was with her. And when the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not. And He came and touched the bier: and they that bare him stood still. And He said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise. And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And He delivered him to his mother. And there came a fear on all: and they glorified God, saying, That a great prophet is risen up among us; and, That God hath visited His people. (KJV)

God's Holy Church views Pascha, the Feast of Jesus Christ's Resurrection as the Feasts of Feasts. The Lord Jesus Christ's Resurrection is central to the faith of believers.

The Lord Jesus Christ conquered death. The Lord Jesus Christ died on the Cross, was buried and rose from the dead. Individuals dead in this life in sin find hope in the Resurrected Christ.

Individuals mourning the death of loved ones have hope in the Resurrected Lord. Serious believers anticipate Jesus' glorious Second Coming and the general resurrection of the dead.

Each Sunday is a celebration of Jesus Christ's Resurrection. Each Sunday the Divine Liturgy celebrates Jesus' rising from the tomb. Each Divine Liturgy is an opportunity to become new and alive in Jesus Christ.

Each Divine Liturgy is an investment in the Kingdom of God. Jesus Christ reveals His power over death for the attentive believer. Jesus Christ revealed His power over death to the widow of Nain.

The poor widow of Nain had lost her husband to death. She was witnessing and grieving the death of her son when Jesus entered her life. Jesus Christ changed the life of the widow of Nain.

Jesus changed the widow's son from experiencing death to experiencing new life. Every parent can draw hope from the account of Jesus' giving life to the son of the widow of Nain.

Every parent with a son or daughter dead in sin can fervently hope in the Lord Jesus Christ. Parents can place firm hope in Jesus Christ that He will transform the son or daughter from death in sin to life in Christ.

Hunger in the soul is satisfied in the Resurrected Christ. The soul seeking renewal in life finds renewal in the Resurrected Christ. Death is overcome in Christ. Eternal life exists in Christ.

Jesus Christ replaces mourning with joy. Jesus Christ replaces sorrow with hope. Jesus Christ is Life and not death. Jesus Christ is healing and not pain. Jesus Christ is renewal and not decay.

God's Holy Church is where to best experience Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ experienced in the Church lives in the heart, mind and soul. Jesus Christ experienced in Church unites with the believer's body.

When Jesus enters the believer in Church, the believer united with Christ goes forth to the home, the neighborhood, and the community. When Jesus restored life to the son of the widow of Nain, the whole community was affected.

Centuries after Jesus restored life to the son of the widow, the miracle of giving life affects attentive and serious believers everywhere and in each century. Each person renewed in Christ affects others.

Jesus Christ is the Answer to transforming the self, the home and the community. Individuals seeking to begin life anew, need look no further than Jesus Christ.

Husbands and wives seeking to renew their marriages, need look no further than Jesus Christ. Mothers and fathers seeking to experience new life as parents need look only to Jesus Christ.

Sons and daughters seeking new and better relationships with their parents and brothers and sisters, need look only to Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ changes dead relationships into relationships alive in Christ.

The Gospel message proclaiming the miracle of giving life to the son of the widow of Nain is centuries old and always new and contemporary. Love for Jesus Christ rests in embracing this Gospel message.

Love for Jesus Christ centers in trusting in Christ to bring life out of death. The Empty Tomb witnessed to Life arising from the dead. The Cross is the sign of Life's victory over death.

The Lord Jesus Christ changed the funeral procession of the son of the widow of Nain from sorrow to amazing joy. Jesus Christ can change each person dead in sin to new life in Christ.

There is always reason to hope in Jesus Christ even in moments of death. Serious believers with eyes to see come to realize that Jesus is always present and working miracles.

God's Holy Church proclaims, reveals and celebrates Jesus Christ's miracles. The hunger in the soul is satisfied and peace comes to the believer when Jesus Christ is present and brings life out of death.

The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost. Holy Martyrs Marcian and Martyrius.
October 25/November 7, 2021. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania.

Father Rodney Torbic