

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)

Holy Fathers of the Seventh Council

John 17:1-13

These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was. I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word. Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee. For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me. I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled. And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves. (KJV)

Believers come to the Divine Liturgy seeking direction, healing of the soul and nourishment from the Lord. The Divine Liturgy offers direct experience with the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Holy Gospel unites the believer with Christ and fills the attentive heart, mind and soul. The Precious Body and Blood of Christ circulates through the believer's body and transforms the believer.

The believer with a heart, mind and soul to open to Jesus Christ cherishes each Divine Liturgy. The Divine Liturgy manifests proof of Jesus Christ's love for each person.

The Divine Liturgy celebrates Jesus Christ's Resurrection. The Lord Jesus Christ is alive in the Divine Liturgy. Open hearts, minds and souls experience Jesus Christ's love and are immeasurably grateful.

The Lord Jesus Christ demonstrated His power over death when he restored life to the dead son of the widow of Nain. He demonstrated power over death when He called the dead Lazarus from the tomb. (John 11:43)

Jesus Christ's most convincing power over death was when He was crucified and rose from the dead. The Gospel provides the details of Jesus' arrest, trial, death on the Cross and Resurrection.

Death is not the end for believers. When believers reach situations in life and there appear to be no satisfying solutions, the Lord Jesus Christ creates solutions leading to great joy.

At times in life job situations may seem to be at a dead end. Faith in Christ will open a new satisfying pathway. At times marriages also may feel like they are at a difficult point and faith in Christ will restore and strengthen the marriage bond.

The widow of Nain had reason to mourn and feel her son was gone from earthly life. The funeral procession was underway. Jesus transformed life for the mother, the son and the others present. Jesus brought life and joy to the situation.

The Lord Jesus Christ is ever-present to transform relationships that appear to be at their end. St. John's Gospel makes clear that Jesus offers eternal life. Jesus opens and overcomes barriers that seem to be life-ending

Believers are challenged in faith to find through Jesus Christ the steps to take to experience Divine joy. God's Holy Church and the Divine Liturgy are the best places to search for solutions to life's difficulties.

Eternal life begins with the earthly life in Christ and continues after death. Eternal life is the triumph in Christ over the graves and tombs of earthly life. The Apostle Peter gave the solution centuries ago.

Persons finding themselves in seemingly dead-end situations do well to heed the Apostle Peter's words. Simon Peter said: "Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life." (Jn.6:68)

A careful reading of Jesus' words will lead to the pathways of eternal life. The hunger in the soul motivates serious believers to be immersed in Jesus' words. Jesus' words address the soul's hunger and bring peace

The life in Christ is intended to bring peace and joy. The Divine Liturgy offers Christ's peace and love. Jesus Christ's triumph over death is the ultimate demonstration of love and pathway to peace and joy.

The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost. The Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the 7th Council. October 9/22, 2023. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic