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)

The Lord Jesus Christ's demonstrated and verified power over death is at the foundation of our faith. Jesus' power over death provides hope in all circumstances of life.

When a loved one departs this life, hope exists of eternal life and meeting the loved one in the general resurrection. Jesus brought joy to the widow of Nain. This joy was most certainly felt and shared with her son.

The joy celebrated on Pascha emanating from Jesus' Resurrection is supreme! Jesus proved by example His power over death. Jesus gives hope to believers in the most difficult moments of life.

Jesus Christ has the power to bring Light to the darkest moments of life. On the Holy Friday when Jesus was crucified the world experienced darkness. Jesus' Resurrection brought Light!

The widow of Nain had lost her husband. Her dead son was before her eyes. Darkness certainly had entered her life. The Lord eradicated that darkness. The Lord shined the Light of Life in the mother's life.

Every person will experience periods of darkness in life. Jesus Christ is present to shine the Light of Life in those moments of darkness. The widow of Nain experienced the Light of Life.

The account of the restoring life to the son of the widow of Nain is proclaimed in the Church every year. This centuries old miracle is always new! Life in Jesus Christ is always new!

Darkness does not need to continue to disturb human lives. Jesus Christ is present to roll the darkness away. God's Holy Church offers believers the message of the life in Christ. God's Holy Church offers direct experience with Jesus Christ.

The presence of Christ is felt when the believer walks through the doors of the Church. Christ's presence is known in the quietness of the Church. Christ's voice Is heard by the attentive.

Christ enters and spreads through the bodies of believers partaking of His Precious Body and Blood. Christ loves each person and is present for each person. .Open hearts welcome the Living and Present Christ.

The miracle of the restoring life to the son of the widow of Nain is preserved in the Holy Gospel. The Church preserves the truth of this miracle. Truth is important. Truth changes lives. Truth gives order and hope to lives.

Witnesses were present when Jesus brought life back to the widow's son. Imagine the feelings and thoughts arising within these witnesses. God's churches are filled with joy on Pascha.

Paschal joy continues in the Church well after the Feast of Feasts. Joy of Jesus restoring life to the son of the widow of Nain lasts through the centuries to the present day.

Only the most hard-hearted person would not feel joy when hearing of Jesus' restoring life to this widow's son. A widow losing an only son would send any mother into darkness.

When darkness enters our lives, let us keep in mind the experience of the widow of Nain. Let us turn to Jesus Christ with great hope and anticipation. Jesus will reveal the Light to follow through the darkness.

Hunger exists in the human soul for nourishment from Jesus Christ. The Gospel provides nourishment for the soul. The Gospel offers direct experience with Jeeus Christ. Jesus' words in the Gospel carry great power.

Jesus' words enrich and change lives. The Gospel is central to each Divine Liturgy. The Divine Liturgy celebrates Jesus' Resurrection. Believers enter into the joy of the Resurrection at each Divine Liturgy.

Believers exiting the Church after the Divine Liturgy carry the joy of the Resurrection to their homes and communities. Parish churches benefit the communities where they are located.

Darkness need not prevail in the world. Christ offers the Light to overcome any darkness. The outlook of life need not be overtaken by darkness. The good thief on the cross reached out to Christ before death and gained Paradise. (Lk.23:42-43)

Each believer has the opportunity to share the Light of Christ to combat the world's darkness. Believers have the lesson of the widow of Nain to draw strength in facing personal darkness. Christ gives Light to overcome all darkness.

The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost. Holy Martyr Charitina of Amisus.
October 5/2026. Father Rodney Torbic