

FAITH IN CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Easter 3, Monday

Luke 7:1-17

After he had finished all his sayings in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. ² Now a centurion had a servant who was sick and at the point of death, who was highly valued by him. ³ When the centurion heard about Jesus, he sent to him elders of the Jews, asking him to come and heal his servant. ⁴ And when they came to Jesus, they pleaded with him earnestly, saying, "He is worthy to have you do this for him, ⁵ for he loves our nation, and he is the one who built us our synagogue." ⁶ And Jesus went with them. When he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends, saying to him, "Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof. ⁷ Therefore I did not presume to come to you. But say the word, and let my servant be healed. ⁸ For I too am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me: and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." ⁹ When Jesus heard these things, he marveled at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, said, "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith." ¹⁰ And when those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the servant well.

¹¹ Soon afterward he went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him. ¹² As he drew near to the gate of the town, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow, and a considerable crowd from the town was with her. ¹³ And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." ¹⁴ Then he came up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." ¹⁵ And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. ¹⁶ Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and "God has visited his people!" ¹⁷ And this report about him spread through the whole of Judea and all the surrounding country.

755 In the Very Midst of Life

In the very midst of life
Snares of death surround us;
Who shall help us in the strife
Lest the foe confound us?
Thou only, Lord, Thou only!
We mourn that we have greatly erred,
That our sins Thy wrath have stirred.
Holy and righteous God!
Holy and mighty God!
Holy and all-merciful Savior!
Eternal Lord God!
Save us lest we perish
In the bitter pangs of death.
Have mercy, O Lord!

Prayer of the Day

O God by Your almighty Word You set in order all things in heaven and on the earth. Put away from us all things hurtful, and give us those things that are beneficial for us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Words have power to do great good and great harm. By a word we may lift up our brothers and sisters and strengthen one another. By a word we may enliven and call to battle, we may fill one another with courage and give hope. Yet by another word we may cast people aside, we may destroy reputations and bonds of friendships. By a word we can terrify and oppress. If our words can be so powerful, what of the Word of God? See how powerful His Word is, far above our own. With a Word he raises the dead and brings to life. Death has no power over this Word. Death, though it seems a terrible end-all for humanity, is but a light sleep to the Lord.

Our Lord desires us to have this as our confidence, that death has no hold on us who are in Him. We have nothing to fear when sickness or pestilence draws near for we have the Word which gives life. The Word made flesh has given us His life. This Word made flesh, Christ Jesus who is our Lord and Savior, brings death to death, and destroys the grave. Though they might torment us in this life, what will be the end of that which harms the children of God? Those things He will destroy and His children he will call to life eternal by His mighty Word.

Suggested reading from the book of Concord: Solid Declaration of the Formula of Concord VII 77-84