

Sermon for September 15, 2024 – 16 after Trinity

Three times – that we know of from Scripture – Jesus raised someone from the dead. One of those people was Jairus' daughter. Jairus was the synagogue ruler.

From Luke 8:49-56

⁴⁹ While He was still speaking, someone came from the ruler of the synagogue's house, saying to him, "Your daughter is dead. Do not trouble the Teacher." ⁵⁰ But when Jesus heard it, He answered him, saying, "Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be made well." ⁵¹ When He came into the house, He permitted no one to go in except Peter, James, and John, and the father and mother of the girl. ⁵² Now all wept and mourned for her; but He said, "Do not weep; she is not dead, but sleeping." ⁵³ And they ridiculed Him, knowing that she was dead. ⁵⁴ But He put them all outside, took her by the hand and called, saying, "Little girl, arise." ⁵⁵ Then her spirit returned, and she arose immediately. And He commanded that she be given something to eat. ⁵⁶ And her parents were astonished, but He charged them to tell no one what had happened.

And then there was the raising of Jesus' good friend Lazarus from the dead. Reports came of Lazarus' serious illness and requests came for Jesus to heal him, but we are told that Jesus waited until Lazarus had been dead for two days before he made preparations to go to him. Jesus had been teaching his disciples, the Jews, and Mary and Martha. So, by the time Jesus arrived, Lazarus had been dead for four days. Flesh begins to deteriorate after 3 days, a smell had arisen by the time Jesus arrived.

From John 11: 38-44

³⁸ Then Jesus, again groaning in Himself, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. ⁴² And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me." ⁴³ Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" ⁴⁴ And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go."

And thirdly, from our gospel text today, the report of Jesus raising a young man from the dead.

From Luke 7:11-17

¹¹ Now it happened, the day after, that He went into a city called Nain; and many of His disciples went with Him, and a large crowd. ¹² And when He came near the gate of the city, behold, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother; and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the city was with her. ¹³ When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." ¹⁴ Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried him stood still. And He said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." ¹⁵ So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to his mother. ¹⁶ Then fear came upon all, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen up among us"; and, "God has visited His people." ¹⁷ And this report about Him went throughout all Judea and all the surrounding region.

So from our text today I repeat: "God had visited His people. And this report about Him went throughout all Judea and all the surrounding region." Now – even two thousand years later - these

words still live. “*God had visited His people.*” And still even today this report about Him goes not only throughout all Judea and all the surrounding region but also throughout the whole world – including right here.

God visited his people in the flesh of His Son, Jesus. He taught people about God and God's Truths – both law and gospel. He healed people. He calmed storms. He cast out demons. He raised at least three people from the dead. He raised a widow's only son from the dead. He raised his good friend Lazarus from the dead. He raised a synagogue ruler's daughter from the dead. He had power over diseases and demons and storms in nature. He had power to give life where death once ruled. Has power to raise our loved ones from the dead. He has the power to raise us from the dead. He used His powers so the people whom He raised from the dead would know that He is the Son of the only true and living God. He used His powers to raise people from the dead – as witnessed to by many people, so that you know that He is the Son of the only true and living God.

How is it that this powerful God-Man who had power even over death would endure such punishment and pain and scorn and even die on the Tree of the Cross? And what good would that death do for those whom he came to save from their sin and condemnation? Another man dying, what good would that do? But he wasn't just another man.

From Dr. Luther as he wrote in his book “On the Councils and the Church 1539”: *We Christians should know that if God is not in the scale to give it weight, we, on our side, sink to the ground. I mean it this way; if it cannot be said that God died for us, but only a man, we are lost, but if God's death and a dead God lie in the balance; His side goes down and ours goes up like a light and empty scale. Yet He can also readily go up again, or leap out of the scale! But he could not sit on the scale unless He become a man like us, so that it could be called God's dying, God's martyrdom, God's blood, and God's death. For God in His own nature cannot die; but now that God and man are united in one person, it is called God's death when the man dies who is 1 substance or 1 person with God.*

So, why did God become a man? Answer: So that He could die. Otherwise He could not die. He suffered and died. He was raised from the dead. He suffered and died for the sins of the world. He atoned for our sins. He was raised from the dead. Jesus has the power to give us life eternal by giving us His body and His blood. These things are most certainly true and are the object, substance, and basis of our faith. From John 6:53 “*Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you.”*” By the power of the Holy Spirit you believe these things. Amen.