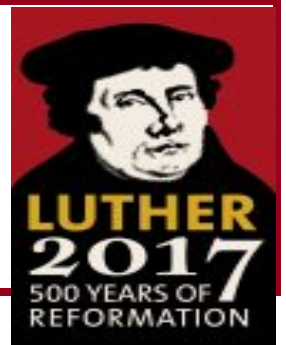


## *The Miracle in Nain*

Luke 7:11-17    1 Kings 17:7-9, 17-24    1 Cor 15:35-44

April 30, 2017

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Today in our Gospel lesson, we heard the story of Jesus raising a dead boy who was *in his coffin and on his way to the cemetery.*

It was a **dramatic event** --- a large crowd following Jesus meets the large funeral procession at the city gate; **at the center of all these people was Jesus, the dead boy, and the boy's mother.**

The boy's mother is a widow, and it literally says that her "**only begotten son**" had died. This woman had lost her husband, and now she has lost her only begotten son. She was all alone, and grieving terribly. Grief is a *heavy burden.*

Jesus saw her grief and sorrow, and it says that His "*heart went out to her.*" It means that Jesus had **compassion** for her, literally the word is a powerful and graphic word picture that means that *Jesus' stomach was twisted in knots* when He saw how much she was hurting. He was moved by her grief and sorrow. *The word "compassion" means that the death of this boy and his mother's sorrow hurt Jesus also.*

**Jesus' compassion and love for the widow quickly moves to action.** In an unprecedented move, the Jewish Rabbi actually **touches** the dead body, and the Son of God **raises** the boy from the dead! *Jesus said, "Young man, I say to you, get up!" The dead boy sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.*

**The resurrection of this boy from Nain helps us to better understand the Easter victory that Christ won for us!**

To really understand this story, you have to humbly and painfully realize that we all are that dead boy in Nain.

**Sin leaves us dead;  
sin leaves us without life, without hope,  
and with no chance of saving ourselves.**

Spiritually speaking, we are *in the coffin* and *on our way to the cemetery* in sin! We need Jesus to have compassion on us and intervene on our behalf ---- otherwise we will all die in our sin; without Jesus, we all would be dead and buried forever!

**The Good News is that Jesus does intervene on your behalf!** Jesus has compassion on you just like He did that widow in Nain. His stomach was *twisted on knots* to see you trapped in sin and death, so He left Heaven and became a man in order to make sure you will live forever with Him in His Heavenly Kingdom. He takes your sins to the cross, where He is put to death. Three days later, He rose from the dead to give you life!

The truth is that it is not the widow's "**only begotten son**" who will die, but God's "**Only Begotten Son**" who will die for the sins of the world! Jesus died *once and for all* people, including you! Jesus' death brings forgiveness and reconciliation with God; His resurrection brings life and salvation to everyone!

In the story, the widow's son is raised from the dead by the **Word of Jesus**. *Jesus said, "Young man, I say to you, get up!"* And the young man gets up! The widow's son is raised from the dead by the **Word of Jesus**.

It happens the same way for you. **Jesus' word** came to you in the water of Holy Baptism and gave you life. **Holy Baptism is your "Nain experience", where Jesus meets you at the "city gates" and by His powerful Word, raises you from the dead and gives you eternal life!**

In Holy Baptism, it is as if Jesus said to you, *"Young man/woman, I say to you, get up!"* Baptism is the miracle of new life, Baptism is **Living Water where your sinful nature is drowned and buried with Christ, and a new creation arises and lives before God in righteousness and purity forever!** In Holy Baptism, all the gifts of salvation were given to you, but today there are two gifts stand out in light of this Miracle at Nain.

1) In your Baptism, the powerful **Word of Jesus** gave you eternal life. Right now, in this life, and as you live and breathe, you have eternal life. Jesus said you have already crossed over from death to life. **No matter how or when you end up dying, death cannot interrupt the eternal life you already have. Eternal life takes the sting out of death and dying!**

2) A second thing that happened in Holy Baptism is the powerful **Word of Jesus** promised you that **YOUR BODY** will rise from the dead *on the Last Day*. When Jesus returns, you will hear His Voice and your body will rise from the dead! **Like the boy in Nain, your body will physically rise from the dead, and you will be reunited with your faithful loved ones in the Kingdom of Heaven!**

**Both eternal life now and the certain hope of the resurrection of the dead on the Last Day were given to you in Holy Baptism, and all of this happens only because of the powerful Word of Jesus, who Himself has *already* risen from the dead!**

### Finally, one other thing.

When Luke tells the story of Jesus raising the widow's son in Nain, he does something fascinating with the story. He makes sure that we realize that this miracle was **a big deal**; that there were hundreds of witnesses to it.

Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and **a large crowd** went along with him. As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out—the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And **a large crowd** from the town was with her. LUKE 7:11-12

This **news about Jesus spread** throughout Judea and the surrounding country. LUKE 7:17

*Two large crowds* converge on a resurrection miracle! The people are *filled with awe and praise God!* They realize that *God has come to help His people!* The result was that *news about Jesus spread all over Judea and the surrounding country.*

- † **If you were part of that crowd, would you have told others about it?**
- † **Would you have told everyone you know that Jesus can raise the dead?**
- † **Would have you helped spread the news about Jesus?**

**Telling others about the resurrection is a key part of the Easter story!** Disciples tell other people about Jesus and His resurrection! The Apostles risked life and limb to preach and teach the resurrection of Jesus! **What about you?** Do you tell others about Jesus and His resurrection? Do you take any risks in sharing Christ with others?

When you think about your life, **how many years** have you been a witness to Easter Sunday? **How many celebrations** of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead have you been a part of? And now, in comparison, **how many people** have you told about the resurrection of Jesus?

One of our goals here at Trinity is that we are **mission-minded** people. **All that means is that we share Jesus and His death and resurrection with other people.** Like the Apostles, we are witnesses to the Easter story through Holy Scriptures. Like the boy in Nain, Christ has raised us in Holy Baptism and given us eternal life and the certain hope of the resurrection of the dead on the Last Day.

† **Do you believe that?**

† **Do you believe that god has done that for you?**

† **Do you believe it enough to tell others about it?**

Being **mission minded** means that we realize that most people are living without Christ and dying in their sins...and we have compassion for them! Our stomachs **twist and turn in knots** because other people do not know Jesus yet. They are living without Christ and dying in their sins. **We need to tell them about Jesus!**

Remember, that most people --- even other *Christians* -- do not understand Jesus' death and resurrection; they do not understand the life that Jesus gives us now, and the promised resurrection of the Dead on the last day.

**People need you** to talk about Jesus' death and resurrection! People need you to take a risk and talk about Jesus, His compassion, and His eternal salvation! God works through His Word that you speak to create faith in others!

Like the people of Nain, the resurrection fills us with awe so that we praise Him! Like the people of Nain, we know that God has come to help His People!

Today, as we continue to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead on the third day, may this story of the Miracle in Nain give you comfort, strength and courage:

**LIKE THAT BOY IN NAIN**, Jesus will raise your body on the Last Day with His Powerful Word; and

**LIKE THE PEOPLE OF NAIN**, may you tell everyone what Jesus has done!

*Amen!*