



June 27, 2021

## THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### LECTIONARY #98B

Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24

Psalms 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11, 12, 13

2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15

Mark 5:21-43 or 5:21-24, 35b-43

## Prepare for the Word

*The following elements may be used by the catechist, teacher, or youth minister to prepare to facilitate today's session with teens. You may integrate this information into the reflection and discussion on today's readings.*

### Leader's Context

A little girl is desperately ill, and her father urgently seeks Jesus so that he might heal her. Upon arrival, it is discovered that the little girl is already dead. Jesus demonstrates his divine power by raising the girl to life. He demonstrates a deep love and respect for human life, family and community with this little girl's miracle. We too are called to have a love and respect of the lives of those around us. We too are called to give others the gift of love and community. Catholicism is rooted in that which is life-giving, and we are called to be a people who respect, encourage, and support all human life.

**Q FOCUS:** *Life is a gift from God.*

### Liturgical Calendar Connection

The Church celebrates the solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul on June 29. Remembered together, these men helped to build the early Church and it grew under their leadership and care. They were devoted shepherds for the faithful, teaching Jesus' message far and wide. Each saint had their own unique gifts, Peter in leading the Church and Paul in preaching and bring the message of Christ to the world. Both gifts are important parts of the Christian faith, leading others by humble service and sharing the Good News with all those we encounter.

### Church Teaching Connection

"Man is called to a fullness of life which far exceeds the dimensions of his earthly existence, because it consists in sharing the very life of God. The loftiness of this supernatural vocation reveals the greatness and the inestimable value of human life even in its temporal phase. Life in time, in fact, is the fundamental condition, the initial stage and an integral part of the entire unified process of human existence. It is a process which, unexpectedly and undeservedly, is enlightened by the promise and renewed by the gift of divine life, which will reach its full realization in eternity (cf. 1 [John] 3:1-2)" (*Evangelium vitae*, 2).

## Hear the Word

*Use this resource, a Lectionary, or a Bible to proclaim the reading. The book should be held reverently or placed on a lectern. If possible, light a candle that is placed near where the Gospel will be proclaimed. Gesture for teens to stand.*

### Gospel Acclamation

*Use the same musical setting that is used in your parish or at school Masses. Teens may help with music and proclaim the Gospel.*

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

### Gospel

Mark 5:21-24, 35b-43

**Reader:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

**All:** Glory to you, O Lord.

*All make the Sign of the Cross on their forehead, lips, and heart.*

When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a large crowd gathered around him, and he stayed close to the sea. One of the synagogue officials, named Jairus, came forward. Seeing him he fell at his feet and pleaded earnestly with him, saying, "My daughter is at the point of death. Please, come lay your hands on her that she may get well and live."

# Read

Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24

Psalm 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11,  
12, 13

2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15

Mark 5:21-43 or 5:21-24,  
35b-43

## LIVING THE WORD

### Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

June 27, 2021



#### REFLECTION

Today's Gospel is a miracle sandwich; in the middle of the healing of Jarius' daughter is the healing of the woman with a hemorrhage (read Mark 5:21-43). Within the story about a twelve-year-old girl is a woman who has been suffering for twelve years. Twelve is a meaningful number throughout Scripture because as the combination of three (signifying the divine) and four (representing the earth), it represents perfection and completeness. So, at the perfect time for both, Jesus brings healing and life to a desperate situation. In those days, it was socially acceptable to avoid physical contact with both, but without hesitation, Jesus responded with compassion. Regardless of the circumstances, Jesus will respond to us with compassion. In both, faith played an essential role. We play an important role participating in our own healing by having faith in God to heal us.



#### ACTION

This week, participate in your own healing by practicing the virtue of hope. We often get stuck in unhelpful extremes instead of practicing hope. On one hand, we struggle with "too-much-God and not-enough-me." Often described as cheap hope, this is when we ignore or devalue our God-given abilities or refuse the Holy Spirit's power to work through human efforts. On the other hand, "too-much-me and not-enough-God" is thinking everything depends on us and no one else can help. Approaching a situation determined to "do my part and leave the rest for God," is not actually cooperating with God; it's trying to control God, insisting things get done our way. Hope is both trusting in and working with God. Be open to the Spirit's role in your life.



"Do Something"

— Matthew West

[https://www.youtube.com  
/watch?v=b\\_RjndG0IX8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b_RjndG0IX8)



#### QUESTIONS

- ❖ What do today's readings teach you about the Christian life?
- ❖ What desperate situation would you like to ask Jesus to bring healing and life to?
- ❖ How do you participate with God in your own healing?

## Wrapping It Up

Consider these points to conclude the discussion and reflection. Integrate the thoughts and ideas that surfaced during the discussion as well as the "Church Teaching Connection" on page 214.

**Jesus is God; he has power over all of creation.**

**How do we call on Jesus when we are suffering, frightened, or worried?**

**Because of our free will, we can choose to follow Christ's command or turn away from him.**

## Act on the Word

### Who Is Jesus?

*You will need Bibles, newsprint, and markers.*

Although we can probably answer the question, "Who is Jesus," it is helpful to be reminded of what we learn about him in the Gospel accounts. Divide the young people into four groups. Assign each group one of the Gospels. Have the teens look through their assigned Gospel and create a profile of Jesus, according to that Gospel. For example, a group can list the chapters (Luke 1, Luke 2, etc.) and then summarize each chapter in a few words. Or a group could make a list of the miracles Jesus performs. Another option would be to create a timeline of Jesus' life and works.

Encourage the young people to be creative in their presentation of the material. Once they have finished, have them reflect on their summary of Jesus' life; who was he? What do his actions tell us about his identity? How do his words shape our perception of him? Have each group share what they learned about who Jesus is. How does this understanding reshape or add to their understanding of Jesus?

### Closing Prayer

*God, ever present in our times of need,  
Increase in us the gift of faith in you.*

*As your Son navigated the boat through the  
stormy waters*

*by teaching his disciples the importance of faith,  
may we never fail to trust in your mercy.*

*With your forgiveness at hand,*

*may we live always anew in the Spirit.*

*We ask this through Christ our Lord.*

*Amen.*

### For Next Sunday

*To help teens prepare for next Sunday's Mass, print, email, or share on a blog or social media the handout found on the next page. The JPG and PDF files are available at [www.ltp.org/lwgr](http://www.ltp.org/lwgr). Encourage teens to attend Mass with family or friends.*

perishing?" He woke up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Quiet! Be still!" The wind ceased and there was great calm. Then he asked them, "Why are you terrified? Do you not yet have faith?" They were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this whom even wind and sea obey?"

**Reader:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**All:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

*Everyone may be seated.*

## Reflect on the Word

*When beginning the reflection and discussion about today's readings, first refer to the handout for today. Ask teens what they learned about themselves and about Christian discipleship from performing the action for the week and journaling. Ask teens about the readings of the day: What struck them? What do they think the readings mean? How do the readings affect their own lives? Then begin the following reflection:*

Weather was a constant threat to those whose lives are spent on the sea. Sudden storms with terrifying rain and lashing wind can quickly snuff out lives. We cannot control the weather, but we can be prepared for it. People who travel or work on the sea know about these perils; they prepare as best they can, but sometimes it is not enough to combat the storms. In the Gospel reading today we heard about conditions the disciples faced while traveling by boat—a storm arose and they faced dreadful conditions that filled them with fear.

► **Have you ever faced a terrifying storm, or conditions that made you fear for your life?**

When finding themselves in such situations, people begin working toward survival; the disciples woke Jesus, who was sleeping on board the vessel. Having seen Jesus perform miracles, the disciples knew he could help them, but did they know he would stop the storm with his words? What Jesus did in today's Gospel is astounding; simply by his word, he commands the wind and sea to calm. It does. Prayers answered, the disciples must have been left in holy

gratefulness and astonishment. We hear them wondering at Jesus' identity at the end of the reading; who could do such a thing? This question is one many people in the New Testament ask, and many joyfully found their answers in Jesus, the Messiah, the Son of God.

► **Do you ever wonder who Jesus is? We have the testimony of the Bible, but who is he in your life?**

Reading the Gospel, people today ask this same question; who is this man? The disciples did not fully understand who Jesus was at that time but were growing in understanding each day they spent with Jesus. We too ask that question, but our answer comes with generations of Church teaching; we can clearly see Jesus' identity. We understand that the storm ceased because the Lord instructed it to do so. Only God has power over such events.

The fact that we know why Jesus had power over such events gives us pause. The wind and the sea have no choice but to follow Jesus; he instructs, and nature follows his command. We, however, must choose to obey the Lord.

► **When you consider human free will, what do you think about? What sort of choices come to mind?**

Our lives are filled with choices that we can choose to make in light of Jesus and his teachings. We are called to choose obedience to Jesus, and to gladly take on that responsibility and joy. Sometimes obedience to God is easy. Many people find joy in serving food at soup kitchens or fulfillment in prayer time with friends at youth group. Other times, responsibility in obedience to God may feel like a burden.

► **When do you find it easy to obey God? When do you find it difficult to obey him?**

► **How can listening to the Holy Spirit help in those times of difficulty?**