

A photograph of a church interior, showing rows of wooden pews facing a sanctuary. The sanctuary features a large, colorful stained glass window and a wooden altar. The ceiling is made of exposed wooden beams with several pendant lights hanging down. The date "JULY 7, 2021" is printed at the top center of the image.

JULY 7, 2021

AGAPE FROM AFAR

Adjusting to life amidst Coronavirus

A WORD FROM PASTOR JILL

As a way to remain connected during this time apart, I will be putting together a weekly newsletter with a reflection based on the upcoming Sunday scripture passage. I hope that by taking a few moments to reflect on the Word of God and pray, we can feel grounded and connected to God and to one another during this uncertain time. *-Pastor Jill*



The passage for this Sunday is from Luke 7:11-17. In this passage, Jesus happens upon a funeral procession for a widow's only son. Jesus has compassion on the woman and tells her to stop crying. He then touches the mat the man is lying on and says, "Rise." Miraculously, the man is brought back to life. The crowd is perplexed, amazed and afraid. News about Jesus' healing powers spread throughout Judea and the surrounding area.

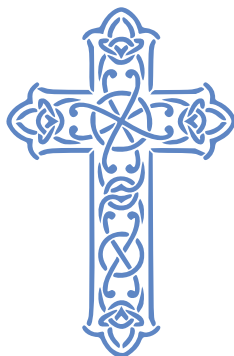
Reflect more on this passage on the following pages.



Read the passage:

Luke 7:11-17

Soon afterwards he went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went with him. As he approached the gate of the town, a man who had died was being carried out. He was his mother's only son, and she was a widow; and with her was a large crowd from the town. When the Lord saw her, he had compassion for her and said to her, "Do not weep." Then he came forward and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, rise!" The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized all of them; and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen among us!" and "God has looked favorably on his people!" This word about him spread throughout Judea and all the surrounding country.





Reflect:

1. Jesus offered the widow compassion by seeing her and recognizing her pain. What can we do to recognize pain in people that are often unseen?
2. After Jesus brought the son back to life the text says the crowd was afraid. Why do you think they were filled with fear?
3. How might we reconcile Jesus' raising this woman's son from the dead with people we know who have lost loved ones despite praying for their healing?
4. What is this passage calling you to do today? This week?

Pray:

God, if we are being honest, we want our loved ones to come back to life, too. Remind us, even in our grief, that you can heal our pain and sorrow as we look toward new life. Instead of focusing on our own pain, help us to see the forgotten and ignored people and offer them hope. Amen.