

Grace, Mercy and Peace to you from Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! Amen.

We are now in the Season of Pentecost until the Advent season in the last Sunday of November and they called the Sundays then an ordinary Sunday. Yes, because it is not the Easter Sunday or the ones near the Christmas. But, personally, I like the ordinary time of our life. It is in the ordinary time that we all live. I will come back to that but one thing that catches my eyes in our gospel text today is on verse 13 where Luke wrote, "*When the Lord saw her, he has compassion for her and said to her, 'Do not weep' "*

This is the first time that Luke mentioned about Jesus as the Lord. And yes, we know that Jesus is Lord. So let's learn something about the Lordship of Jesus. By definition, the Lord means or indicates that this person has authority, control, or power over others acting like a master, a chief, or a ruler. That is someone called to be the Lord. In other words, person in charge, overseeing and may be some of us are kind in that position, because of your work or your position in where you are. So here is Jesus Lordship for us to follow. For Jesus, to be Lord, is to be vulnerable to the suffering of another. For Jesus, to be Lord is to feel compassion. For Jesus, to be Lord is to not just feel compassion but to act on it, and to do something. For Jesus, to be Lord is, finally, to heal, restore, renew, and in all ways to help. Yes, for Jesus to be Lord is not to be judge but to be merciful; not to be all powerful but vulnerable; not to be hard or strong attitude but to feel compassion; not to be reluctant but to take action to heal and restore. That is Jesus' Lordship for us to reflect on.

The second point that strikes me in this gospel text is not the miracle itself but rather the reaction of the crowd that can be summarized as wondering to thanksgiving and to sharing.

In our gospel text today, we have the understanding of Lordship as the One who responds to our needs with compassion and action, and the understanding of our roles as Christ follower: to see with reverence, to thank, and to tell.

Yes, Trinity members, we are invited to observe and to see how God is at work in our life everyday, and to be thankful every day and to share our stories. That is exactly, what the pentecost project is all about. So, yes share your story. It doesn't have to be as spectacular as receiving back a dead relative; it might instead be as simple and as profound as repairing a broken relationship, or renewing a friendship, or coming through a difficult time, or meeting a goal and you know what you can share...

And now, I am going back the theme of the sermon about the ordinary time of our life. As I said, we live in the ordinary time. That is why, I like the ordinary time. Look at the gospel text today, it talks about death. Death is not something new. Death is persistent, unavoidable factor marking our human existence. As human being, our chance of dying is 100%. There is nothing more mundane, more common, than the ordinary grief of a mother mourning her dead son. We can have a similar case like this anywhere in the world from the flat land of Whichita and Kansas to the hills of Afghanistan, to the savannas of Africa, to the deep and thick forest of Papua New Guinea and everywhere, there are countless mothers grieving the deaths of their sons or a family grieving the death of a loved one even now. By the way, ***Grief never ends.. but it changes. It is a passage. Not a place to stay. Grief is not a sign of weakness, nor a lack of faith...it is the price of love.***

Here is the thing that I want us to remember today, God is amongst us, breaking into the ordinary, the mundane, the Time Being, of us, where ever we are in order to encourage, support, restore, and eventually to redeem us. May be sometimes, it is not easy or even it may be hard to

detect God at times in our lives, but today we are being reminded God's presence in our ordinary times as well as the extraordinary time of ours. God is with us during times of planting as well as harvest. God is with us during times of loneliness as well as contentment. God is with us during times of scarcity as well as abundance. Yes, God is with us during times of mourning as well as rejoicing.

And every Sunday, we hear that at church. We come here to worship God. We come here to receive forgiveness of our sins. We come here to be reminded that God is with us and God loves each one of us. And then we go out to share God's love to the world. We participate in God's mission to redeem the world.

Yes, the Church does rich ministry in this world today. And as we do our work in Jesus' name, we should expect that as a result of the Church's praying, some sick people will be healed, some fractured marriages will be reconciled, some prodigal sons and daughters will return to the fold, some Christian businesspeople will succeed and may be earn gobs of money. And we know and we have experienced that these things happen and we are thankful to God. But at the same time, we know too that many of our prayers are not answered by God in the way that we wanted it or asked for it.

For example, we still attend the funerals for people we prayed for; we still have hope in us even everything we prayed for is still not tangible because we know that God is with us.

As a Christian, yes we still have a bad day. Jesus had them when he was on earth. In the book of Acts, in the earliest days of the church, not every good person, disciple, apostle, or Christians followers of the Christ had every prayer answered, every misfortune reversed...

But we hang on and trust God in our life. Emmanuel, God-with-us, has come to redeem the ordinary -- ordinary time and ordinary people alike. Because for God there is no such thing as ordinary time. Each day is a gift from God and we thank God for that gift. Each morning, God renew us as God loves each one of us so much.

Rejoice and be thankful in our life.

Amen