

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR B

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

God of all people who live
and of all who are dead,
look with pity on those
who are close to dying
and on those in our families
who have died.

Teach us to understand
that dying is just a doorway
to a new and better life
and that one day,
with the help of Jesus,
we will all live
together with you
in a world that will last
forever and ever.

FOCUS OF THE READINGS:

The focus of the Gospel is the power of Jesus over death. Mark continues his revelation of the divine authority and power of Jesus—over evil spirits, over sin, over wind and water and even over death. It is a prefigurement, a hint at the Resurrection, when Jesus will be ultimately victorious over death.

The first reading focuses on the reality that we were created by God to live forever. God loves us and wants us to live. God made all things good. To do evil is a choice. Evil exists, but we choose to follow either evil or God.

The two readings together tell us that those who choose to act in faith have life. Jairus' daughter lived because Jairus believed in Jesus.

FIRST READING: *Wisdom 1:13-15, 2:23-24*

This is a reading from the book of Wisdom.

God did not make death,
and God never wanted people to die.
All living things are good,
and there is no evil in them.
All people were created in God's image
so that they would live forever.

But the devil was jealous
and brought evil and death into the world.
People who choose
to follow the ways of the devil
choose death instead of a life with God.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSE: *Psalm 16 and Psalm 27*

RESPONSE:

Have mer-cy God, have mer-cy God. I trust in
you for my safe-ty. safe-ty.

VERSES:

1. You are my light my sav-ior; with your help I shall not be a-fraid.
2. When it is dark a-round me, noth-ing takes me a-way from your love.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Je-sus said: "Ta-li-tha kum, lit-tle girl get up I tell you."
Al-le-lu-ia, praise the Lord, al-le-lu-ia, praise the Lord.

GOSPEL: *Mark 5:22-24, 35-43*

This is a reading from the Gospel of Mark.

One day a man named Jairus
came to see Jesus.
He was one of the rulers of the synagogue.
He knelt in front of Jesus
and begged him to help him. He told Jesus,

“My little daughter is dying.
Please come and put your hands on her
so she will get well and live.”

So Jesus went with Jairus,
and a large crowd of people followed them.
While they were on their way,
some people from Jairus’ house came and said,

“Your little girl is dead. There is no need
to bother this Teacher now.”

But Jesus said to Jairus,

“Don’t be afraid. Just have faith and believe.”

Then Jesus took Peter,
James and John with him to Jairus’ house.
When they got there,
many people were inside crying loudly.
Jesus went in and said to them,

“Why are you crying
and making all this noise?
The child is not dead. She is asleep!”

When he said this,
the people began to laugh and make fun of him.
Jesus told them all to go outside.
Then he took the little girl’s mother and father
and the three disciples and went into the room
where the little girl was in bed.
Jesus took her hand and said,

“*Talitha, kum!*”

which means, “Little girl, I say to you, get up!”

The little girl, who was twelve years old,
got up immediately and began to walk around.
Her family was amazed and filled with wonder.
Jesus told them not to tell anyone
what had happened.
Then he told them to give the little girl
something to eat.

The Gospel of the Lord.

REFLECTING ON THE READINGS WITH CHILDREN:

After the first reading, ask the children to recall what they heard. This should be fairly brief—just enough for the children to recall that God made all things good and that God created us to live forever.

The Gospel: like so many stories in *Mark*, this one should be read as a drama, emphasizing all the details Mark is so careful to include.

Ask the children to recall what they heard. Perhaps they could share how the father felt, how Jesus felt. How did the little girl feel when Jesus healed her? Since this story is specifically about Jesus and a child, the children will easily relate to it. That is why we have chosen to retain the Aramaic “*Talitha kum.*” Children often remember things that are unusual or strange sounding to their ear.

Allow the children time to discuss Jesus’ power over death. The little girl lived because Jesus said, “I tell you to get up.”

Remind them that we have already seen his power over evil spirits, over sin, over wind and water.

What Jesus did here he will do for all of us at the end of time. We will be raised up and will live with him forever.

Thirteenth Sunday of the Year

Jesus gives new life

INTRODUCTION

Jesus knew how precious life is: to be able to enjoy the sun and rain, to be able to love each other, and to be part of our world. In today's Gospel, we hear how Jesus used his power to raise a dead little girl back to life again.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

Sing the Candle Song.

SORRY

Before we sing our song together, let us close our eyes and for few moments, tell God how much we love him, and ask for his forgiveness if we have done wrong. Sing Sorry Song 1.

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 5.

GOSPEL (MARK 5:21-24, 35-43)

A large crowd had gathered around Jesus, when a man called Jairus came to him and pleaded, "Master, my little girl is dying! Please come and take her in your arms, so she will be well again."

Jesus set off with Jairus, but on the way a servant came and told them that the little girl was already dead. Jesus turned to Jairus and said, "Do not be afraid, just trust me." At the house everyone was crying and feeling very sad, but Jesus told them, "Don't cry, the little girl is not dead, only sleeping."

They then made fun of Jesus! They knew the difference between someone who was sleeping and someone who was dead. Sending everyone else away, Jesus took Jairus and his wife, and the disciples James, John, and Peter, up to the room where the little girl lay. Gently taking her hand, Jesus said quietly, "Little girl, get up!"

The little girl got up and walked around the room. They were all so amazed that they didn't

know what to say or do next, until Jesus said, "Give her something to eat, she must be hungry."

DISCUSSION

Jairus had come to ask that Jesus help his little girl, who was very ill. When someone asked for help, Jesus never turned them down. He left what he was doing and went off with Jairus at once.

While on their way, Jesus and Jairus were told that they were too late, and the little girl was already dead. Jesus asked Jairus to trust him and to believe in his power. Jesus knew that death was not the end of everything.

Why did the people laugh at Jesus and make fun of him? They saw that the little girl was dead: she had stopped breathing and her heart was no longer beating. When Jesus said that she was only sleeping, they thought he was being foolish and silly.

Jairus had trusted Jesus and believed in him, and yet he was amazed and filled with wonder by the miracle before his eyes. Jesus had brought his daughter back to life when she was already dead. At that moment, Jairus and everyone else in the room had seen the power of God at work changing death into life!

When do we hope to be raised to life again? We believe that one day, at the end of time, the dead will be raised up by the power of God to live a new and everlasting life in Heaven.

ACTIVITY

Copy the pictures which tell today's Gospel story for the children to color. Cut them out and help the children to assemble them in book form.

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Dear Jesus, today we pray for people who are sick in mind or body.

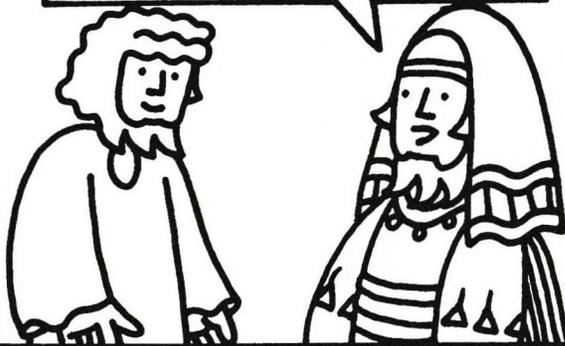
In your compassion and love,
reach out and touch them
with your healing power.

(Invite the children to pray for any sick friends or relatives they know.)

We pray that you will heal all our friends and relatives, especially those that we have mentioned in our thoughts and words.

JAIRUS

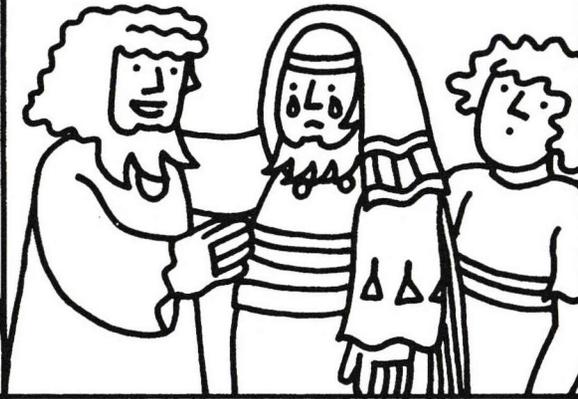
Jesus please come!
My little girl is sick.



Master, you are too late,
your daughter is dead.



Do not be afraid.
Trust me.



Thirteenth Sunday of the Year

Focus

A Bible open at today's Gospel, together with a candle and a handprint on a piece of paper or a plate of sand (to represent the healing touch of Jesus).

Introduction

Faith is a mystery. It is a gift from God that opens our hearts and minds to help us accept and believe the truth revealed by Jesus. It takes us where reason and common sense cannot go, and helps us to discover what lies beyond our simple understanding.

Gloria

Gospel Acclamation

Light the Gospel candle and sing Acclamation 4.

Gospel

A reading from the Gospel of St Mark (5:21-43)
(See page 383.)

Reflection

Why was Jairus so upset when he came to ask Jesus for help?

As a father, Jairus was beside himself with worry because his little girl was dangerously ill. He had probably already tried whatever medical help there was, but they did not have the modern medicines we have today to relieve her fever and fight the disease.

Why did he go in search of Jesus?

Jairus was an important official at the synagogue in Capernaum, a fishing village where Jesus had spent some time preaching and healing the sick. He came to a man of whom he probably knew very little. He was ready to try anything to save his little girl, and he believed that Jesus was the only hope he had left.

How did Jesus respond to this desperate father's cry for help?

He set off at once without hesitation as Jairus led him to his house.

What happened on the way there?

A woman in the crowd that was following Jesus was desperate to be healed, and she reached out and touched him as he hurried past. At once the illness that she had suffered for twelve years was healed.

When Jesus stopped and spoke to her what did he say?

He told her that her remarkable faith had made her well. Because she truly believed that Jesus could help her, with a simple touch, that's exactly what happened.

What sad news did Jairus receive before he reached home?

A servant came to tell him that he was too late because his daughter was already dead.

How did Jairus react when Jesus asked him to have trust and faith in him?

Having received news that his daughter was already dead, Jairus might have chosen to think that all was lost, but he didn't. He had just witnessed the power of faith in allowing Jesus to heal. He knew that Jesus could heal those who believed in him, so was it possible that he could restore life too? He had asked Jesus for his help because he believed that he could save his daughter. He faithfully led Jesus back to his home and the room where his little girl lay.

What did Jesus do next?

He reached out and gently touched the little girl's hand, before commanding her to get up. Jairus had faithfully asked Jesus to help, and his response revealed the love and power of God as the little girl opened her eyes and sat up.

What can these stories teach us?

If we have faith and believe in God's ability to work in the world, then no situation or suffering is beyond his healing touch. Just as Jesus responded to the needs of Jairus and the sick woman, so he will respond to our needs if we but ask and are ready to trust and believe in the depth and power of his love.

Activity

Cut out large letters which together spell out the words 'Do not be afraid, trust me and have faith.' Let the children colour the letters and help them to arrange them on a colourful banner around the central picture of Jesus curing the little girl.

Intercessions

As brothers and sisters in one loving family, together let us pray to our heavenly Father:

We pray for an end to the suffering of those who are poor and exploited.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for an end to hatred, fear and prejudice in our world.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who teach and share the Christian faith.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the sick and all who struggle with pain.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Knowing that our heavenly Father is listening, in the silence of our hearts let us share our own unspoken prayers with him.

Silence

Loving Father,
increase our faith and change the lives of all who believe and trust in your saving love. We make these and all our prayers through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Do not be afraid,



trust me and have
faith.