

Do not be afraid; just have faith!

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

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

2 Corinthians 8:7,9,13-15

Mark 5:21-43

Wisdom tells us that God did not make death and does not rejoice in the destruction of the living. Death entered our world by the envy of the devil but God fashioned all things as wholesome and with God there is undying justice.

The Psalmist is thankful because the Lord drew him away from his enemies and saved him from going down into the pit. All the faithful are encouraged to sing praise to the Lord and give thanks to his holy name. Mourning changes into dancing and rejoicing comes with the dawn.

Paul compliments the Corinthians because they excel in faith, discourse, knowledge, and earnestness. He inspires them to also excel in love. Christ, he says, became poor so they might become rich and now they are to use their abundance to help those that are burdened and in this way promote equality.



Jesus was on his way to heal the daughter of a synagogue official when a woman, with incurable hemorrhaging, touched the hem of his garment. He felt healing power flow out as she was instantaneously healed. On the way they were met with the announcement of the daughter's death but Jesus said to the official, "Have faith, she only sleeps." Some people ridiculed him but he brought the child back to a normal life leaving all of them stunned.

The Father's plan brings us back to life,
And so the Son was resurrected,
The Holy Spirit delivers us from the power of death.

A strong faith saves and this is clear from the two healings of today's Gospel. The witnesses must have been spellbound in seeing Jairus' daughter raised to life after she was pronounced dead. Wisdom explains that God is the Lord of the living and we who are formed in his image were meant to be imperishable. The Psalmist recognizes the constant help he receives and will give thanks always and everywhere. Paul encourages our thankfulness to take the form of sharing with those who are burdened.

One hint that Jesus give us concerning his power to heal is that it came through prayer. It must have amazed the onlookers to see that "what he is saying is actually happening." The healing forces that can be summoned by prayer in accordance with the laws of mind and body are not better understood by us at this time than they were at Jesus' time. In Mark 11:24 Jesus says, "Therefore I tell you, all that you ask for in prayer, believe that you will receive it and it shall be yours."

I'm sure that as a prayerful people we all seek healing at one time or another but do we understand that there is also a physical and biological aspect to our healing? Do we wholeheartedly seek to obey the known laws of healthy living? If we are told to follow a particular diet are we consistent and serious about it? Perhaps our prayer should often concern itself in obtaining the grace of discipline to consistently follow common sense health guidelines. Very often we lack consistency and are like children amused by a new toy only to have interest wane over time.