

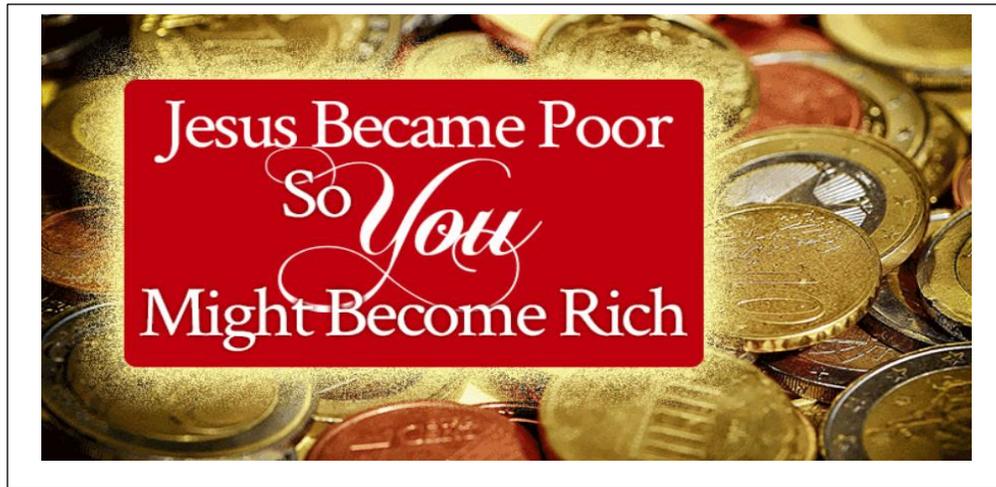


READING 1 – Wisdom 1:13-15, 2:23-24

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

- ¹³ God did not make death,
nor does he rejoice in the destruction of the living.
- ¹⁴ For he fashioned all things that they might have being;
and the creatures of the world are wholesome,
- ¹⁵ and there is not a destructive drug among them
nor any domain of the netherworld on earth
for justice is undying.
- ²³ For God formed man to be imperishable;
the image of his own nature he made him.
- ²⁴ But by the envy of the devil, death entered into the world,
and they who belong to his company experience it.

**“BY THE ENVY OF THE
DEVIL, DEATH ENTERED
THE WORLD”
(Wisdom 2:24)**



READING 2 – 2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15

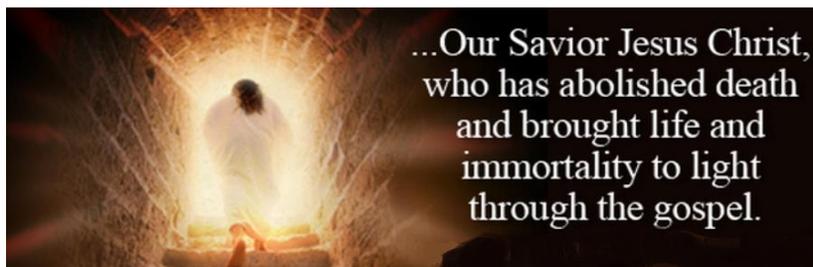
A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

⁷ But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

⁹ For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

¹³ Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. ¹⁴ At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. The goal is equality, ¹⁵ as it is written: “The one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little.”



ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA.

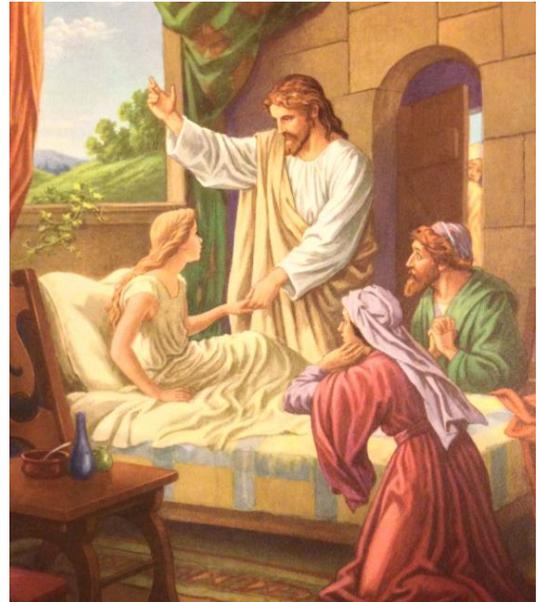
Our Savior Jesus Christ destroyed death and brought life to light through the Gospel.

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA.

GOSPEL – Mark 5:21-43

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

²¹ When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake. ²² Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. ²³ He pleaded earnestly with him, “My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live.” ²⁴ So Jesus went with him.



A large crowd followed and pressed around him. ²⁵ And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. ²⁶ She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. ²⁷ When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, ²⁸ because she thought, “If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.” ²⁹ Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

³⁰ At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, “Who touched my clothes?”



³¹ “You see the people crowding against you,” his disciples answered, “and yet you can ask, ‘Who touched me?’”

³² But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. ³³ Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. ³⁴ He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.”

³⁵ While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. “Your daughter is dead,” they said. “Why bother the teacher anymore?”

³⁶ Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, “Don’t be afraid; just believe.”

³⁷ He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James. ³⁸ When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. ³⁹ He went in and said to them, “Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep.” ⁴⁰ But they laughed at him.

After he put them all out, he took the child's father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. ⁴¹ He took her by the hand and said to her, "*Talitha koum!*" (which means "Little girl, I say to you, get up!"). ⁴² Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished. ⁴³ He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat.

**A PRAYER CONCERNING
WHAT TO DO?
(Psalm 121:1-2)**

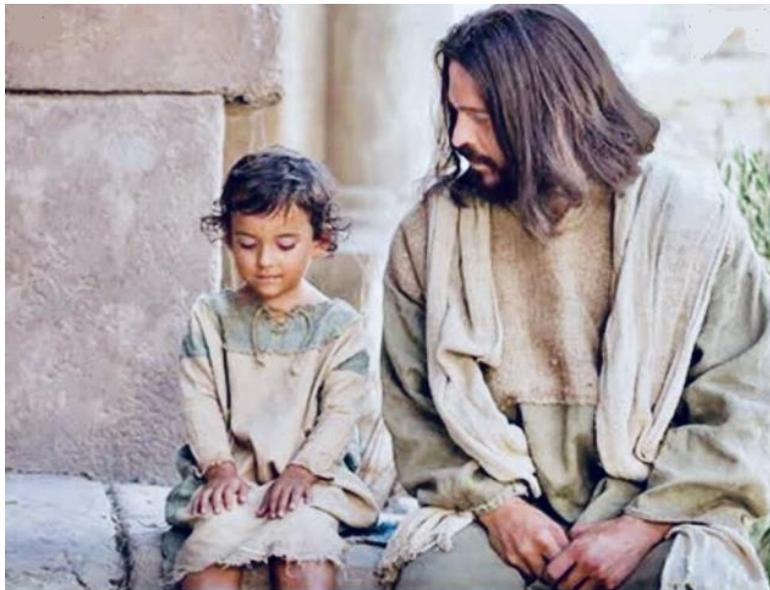
¹ I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from? ² My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.



Dear God,
In this life, I find that each day there are issues and problems that you have gifted me to manage, and there are those that I simply have no idea how to handle. And, it seems that the challenges that are beyond my control are the ones that dominate my thoughts – I mull over my circumstances, backward and forward, wondering what to do. Usually after much stress and worry, I have to conclude that, "*I just don't know*". Help me understand that you allow these difficulties so that I will learn to rely on you, and your goal is to develop my endurance and faith which you accomplish by creating situations where I have no choice but to turn to you. When this happens, teach me not to rush ahead or try to invent solutions. Instead, let me begin by first setting my mind on you, God. Then, help me do all the things that you have given me the wisdom to accomplish. Finally, let me leave the rest in your hands, knowing that you will reveal to me the path that I should go. Never let me forget that, at times, I may not know what to do, or what path to take - but you always do! Let my trust grow for you each and every day.



Amen



**WHEN YOUR BEST FRIEND IS GOD,
YOU ARE NEVER ALONE!**

**A PRAYER CONCERNING
NEVER BEING ALONE
(Psalm 73:23-24)**

²³ I am continually with You. You have taken hold of my right hand. ²⁴ With Your counsel, You will guide me, and afterward receive me to glory.

Dear God,
There are times in my life when I just cannot share my burdens with others. The reasons are many – maybe it would worry my loved ones, it might cause me shame, or it might violate legal, security, or strategic considerations to divulge the

information that presses on my heart. Whatever the reason might be, there are times where I feel isolated in my struggle. At such times, help me to remember that I am never truly alone once I accept Jesus as my Savior – and that I am sealed in him with his Holy Spirit who indwells in me as a guarantee of my redemption. Please remind me that the most wonderful thing about you, God, is that you know even more about my situation than I do. Yours is the only counsel that I truly need! So, when problems and situations come up in my life, and I am feeling that I have no one to help me share my pains, never let me isolate myself from you, my Father. Let me sit in your wonderful presence, and allow you to reveal yourself and your profound solution



for every need that I have. Give me the steadfast faith to believe that you will never leave or forsake me, and that you will always guide me along your perfect path - and let me trust that you are the wisest and most trustworthy companion I will ever have.

Amen



Dear God – I get discouraged when I see people, communities, and nations that cannot, or do not want to, get along with another. When I look into my own heart, I see my own biases and resentments. Bring healing to our brokenness. Let us experience the joy of showing respect, of being open to different views, and of growing together rather than apart. Amen



A PRAYER CONCERNING THE ACCEPTANCE OF GOD (Luke 15:22-24)

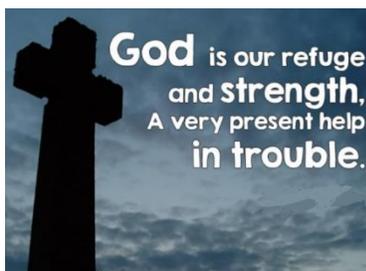
22 "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. 24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

Dear God,

There are times when I feel that I have drifted from the safety of your love, and it reminds me of how the prodigal son must have felt when he realized how far he had strayed from his father. As he dropped pods into the sty of the pigs he was feeding, his stomach growled, and he realized that they were eating better than he was. He was

actually envious of the hogs! Life couldn't get much worse. The only alternative this young man could imagine was to return to his father in humiliation. What a joy it must have been to find that, as he returned home, his father had not only forgiven him, but greeted him with heartfelt hugs and open arms. Give me the assurance, God, that likewise – no matter how far I may have drifted away from you - your arms are always open to me as well. Teach me that I have not slipped too far away from you – and, in fact, it is impossible to do so. Your loving grace is always available to lift me out of the pit of sin and defeat, and bring me back to victorious living. So, never let me envy the pigs or give in to despair – instead, guide me to run back to you so that you may restore me by your grace and fill me with all of your goodness. Thank you, God, for always accepting me back into your loving arms.

Amen



Dear God, I worship you for all that you are. You are my Lord in the good times as well as the difficult. On the mountaintop, as well as the valley. I praise you in times of great blessing, as well as times of great challenge. It is because of you that I can stand strong, even when I feel weak. For I know that when I am the weakest, you show yourself strong. I am grateful for your salvation, deliverance, protection, goodness, and blessings in my life every day. I know that everything I have comes from you. Because of your great strength, I go from glory to glory, and strength to strength, no matter what is happening in my life. Amen