

Wisdom 1:13-15, 2:23-24; 2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15; Mark 5:21-43

It is not surprising news that we are a Church that speaks strongly about life. The reason for this is found in this weekend's readings: Life is a gift from God. And remember, when God gives a gift He does not hold back. He gives it fully; and in the gift of life, we are given a physical, emotional and spiritual existence that has the capacity to love, and to be the image of God Himself in the world. For this reason, life is precious. And not only precious, but sacred. We are something much greater than what we see on the surface. We are God's beloved children. The reading from the Book of Wisdom reminds us that we are formed to be "imperishable" and destined to live with God forever. The Gospel of Mark dramatically shows that Jesus enters the lives of those who suffer, and, through His loving power, heals them. It records something glorious: an affirmation of life in the account of the restoration to health of a woman with a hemorrhage, and a young, dying girl whom Jesus restores to her father. To both the woman and the child, Jesus brings life, and brings it gladly. And He does not limit His gift to simply physical life [as important as this is], but also the richer life of a new relationship with God. We can all take comfort, then, in the reality of our faith in a God who loves us and offers us life and healing over and over again. We need Him. And He is ready to respond to our needs. Therefore, whether we are healthy or sick, happy or sad, poor or rich, we can still echo the beautiful words of our Responsorial Psalm with conviction: "I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me!"

