

ST. LUKE EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH-WELS
SERMON BY PASTOR ANTHONY E. SCHULTZ
6TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SERIES B.

MARK 5:21-24A; 35-43

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. ... 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.

People of God—rescued from the flaming lake of fire in hell by the innocent blood of the very Lamb of God:



People of God—rescued from the flaming lake of fire in Hell by the innocent blood of the very Lamb of God:

Grandpa Detjen sent me a video the other day. It showed an ocean beach down in Brazil—beautiful waves washing up on a sandy beach. All of a sudden you noticed dolphins swimming toward the beach. They came closer and closer and closer—people started to back away from the water. The next thing you know—dolphins are beaching themselves on the shore—more and more of them—flopping helplessly on the wet sand. I’m thinking—oh, no! Then—one by one—these guys come up to the dolphins—some of them touched them on the side—very gently. I’ll bet they were saying in Portuguese—don’t be scared—I’m not going to hurt you. And then they took hold of the dolphins’ tails—and dragged them back into deeper water. More and more helpers came. Some pulled one dolphin to safety and then came back for another! What a pale picture of how Jesus rescued you and me. Jesus lived a flawless life in our place. Then Jesus bled and suffered and died—to wash away all our painful hurtful mistakes. Jesus died and rose again to forgive us. Today in the light of the account of the death of Jairus’ daughter—God’s Word reminds us:

For Christians Death Is Only A Sleep!

- 1. In this world there is mourning**
- 2. In Heaven we will wake up to see Jesus!**

We are reading from the Gospel of St. Mark. For 8 Sundays in a row we are reading from Mark. Then we will do 5 Sundays from the Gospel of John—John chapter 6—Jesus feeding the 5,000 and the whole **Jesus is the Bread of Life** discourse. Then back to the Gospel of St. Mark for 11 Sundays—up to and including Reformation Sunday. Then back to the Gospel of St. John *for Last Judgment, Saints Triumphant and Christ the King*. Then will be December--Advent and the start of the Festival Half of the Church Year! It's always important to remember the context! Mark chapter 4 Jesus taught using parables: the parable of the sower and the seed—lots of seeds fail—some trampled on the path—some eaten by the birds—some springing up in thin soil—shallow roots—and some choked by the weeds of worries or wealth or other desires. And some seed falls on rich soil and springs up—bearing lots of fruit. Jesus taught about the lamp—on a lamp-stand—giving light all around. Jesus taught about seeds—that take root and grow—the mustard seed—that starts out so small—that grows to become a tree—the kingdom of God—shelter for birds from everywhere! Jesus teaches. Jesus calms the storm—**“Peace! Be still!”** And in a moment—the stormy sea is like a piece of glass! Chapter 5 Jesus heals a man who is possessed by a legion of demons. Jesus sends the demons in to a herd of pigs—and the pigs go over the cliff. The people who lived there—didn't thank and praise Jesus for setting this poor man free. They pleaded with Jesus to leave! They didn't understand? They loved their bacon and ham more than they loved Jesus? They were in fearful awe of Jesus' power—and wanted him to please leave? They wanted Jesus to go.

What happened next? Jesus came back across the Sea of Galilee. Jesus healed a man who was paralyzed—then called the Tax Collector Matthew to be one of his disciples—then accepted Matthew's invitation to a feast—a celebration meal with other tax collectors and *sinner*s. During the discussion that followed Jesus' accepting this kind and generous invitation- **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...** Jairus—his name means **“Jehovah enlightens”**. What a wonderful name that is! The LORD—the Great I AM—is the light of my life—the light for my path! Jairus is a synagogue ruler—a member the board—kind of like the Church Council—overseeing teaching, Scripture study and worship at the synagogue.

²³ **He/Jairus pleaded earnestly with him/Jesus, “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...** It is difficult to explain the love of a father for his daughter—some 12 years old—and yet still her father's little girl. She is literally—*at the last*—dying. If Jesus would only come and lay his hands on her—touch her—she would be healed and live. This is faith—trust in the power of Jesus' mercy and love and power. This is trust in the Gospel promises of God. This is child like confidence that Jesus can help when no one else can!

It is a fact of life—that little people—small children are very breakable! It happened just the other day again. A little girl—just 11 years old—was playing miniature golf. Her golf ball fell into a water trap. She reached into the water to try and find it—when she was electrocuted. A man nearby tried to pull her out—tried to rescue her—and he was badly injured, too. The little girl was taken to the hospital—but they couldn't save her. She died in the hospital! Again—who knew that you could die—playing miniature golf? There are all kinds of times when we are reminded how painfully breakable we are. Again and again—only Jesus can save us! Only Jesus could—and only Jesus does! Jesus died on the cross for the sins of the whole world—little grandmas and little grandpas and little children everywhere. Jesus died for them all. Jesus died

and rose again so that when little children are injured—Jesus either makes them better in Emergency rooms and operating rooms—or Jesus makes them perfect—safe beside him in Heaven. Jesus was the only one who could help Jairus’ daughter—and Jesus did.

God’s Word says: 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?”** This world is full of noise—commotion and wailing! I read the other day about a guy named George. George was in the New York subway with his children whining—4 trains screaming into the station at the same time. He put his hands over his ears and literally cringed in the middle of this deafening noise. It occurred to George to try and find the peace of mind and soul that would accompany the quietest place possible. The problem is—where, oh where—is it very very quiet? George tried a Cistercian monastery. What’s that, you ask? A monastery where monks take a vow of silence! He went into a Native American sweat lodge. He went 2km underground—all three of which were very *very* quiet—but none of them absolutely quiet. He decided to go into an anechoic chamber at the Orfield Laboratory in Minneapolis. There they had a small room—surrounded by layers of concrete and steel to keep out noise—and inside it’s filled with crosshatched shutters to absorb any sound you make on the inside. Is this—the Holy Grail—the quietest place of all? If you think—yes—you are absolutely wrong! What do you hear—in here? You hear yourself! You hear yourself breathe—even if ever so slowly—you hear yourself breathe. Hold your breath! You hear your heart beat—bump/bump, bump/bump. That’s not something you want to stop. As you become desperate to hear something—you think you can hear your blood moving through your veins. And when you frown—George thought he heard his scalp rub—kind of scrape on the top of his skull. It occurred to George the only ultimate quiet would come when you die! And yet—there is sound when you die, too. There must be the cries of utter hopelessness and despair in the unquenchable fires of eternal destruction. And there is sound in Heaven—the forever hymns of thanks and praise—as we join the angels singing to give glory to the one true God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

When Jairus’ daughter died—people from all around came to wail and mourn. You can see it on the nightly news—the painful cries—and literal wailing—the commotion that is mourning in Israel. Jesus said—you don’t need to cry out! **The child is not dead but asleep.** ⁴⁰ **But they laughed at him.** They laughed at Jesus! This is not the *tee-hee* kind of laughter that finds something humorous. This is the laugh you to scorn—not laughing with you but laughing *at* you! You see this all the time still today! If you actually believe as God’s Word says—the LORD created the world and everything in it—in 6 days of 24 hours—some people will call you a flat earther—a person who believes the world is flat! They will flat out say—if you believe in the miracle of creation—you are too stupid—too stupid to be any kind of political leader in our country! That’s wrong. The lesson—the reading from Job last Sunday reminded us—we were nowhere to be found—when our Heavenly Father created the heavens and the earth. Creation is for God to make—and for him to rule!

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.** Quietly, privately, gently Jesus told the little girl to get up—and she did! Jesus could and Jesus did! Immediately she got up—stood up—walked around—and had something to eat. This was not a weak fluttering of her eyes—a cold wash cloth on chapped lips—a don’t try to get

up—you are too weak. This was not *much* better! This was **all better** because the Lord of Life had made her all better!

I read this week about David and Jackie Siegel—building the biggest house in the United States a single family dwelling that’s 90,000 square feet. It’s on a man-made hill by a lake. It has front doors that are 20 feet tall—doors almost 4 times taller than I am—made from Brazilian mahogany you can’t import any more. I could go on and on—but suffice it to say there is a wine cellar—a place for storing and tasting some 20,000 bottles of wine. And the irony of it all? David doesn’t even *like* wine. This I think pretty well illustrates the utter foolishness of a life dedicated to more and more *things and stuff*—to be able to say I have room for 20,000 of anything—that I don’t even like! Jesus talked once about a man so rich in *things and stuff* that he built bigger and bigger barns—so he could take life easy—eating, drinking, being merry. Jesus said—what a fool! Today your soul will be required of you—and then what? What matters—all that matters—is an inheritance stored up in Heaven—because Jesus died and rose again to forgive us. ***For Christians death is only a sleep. We will wake up to see Jesus! Amen!***

To God alone all glory!

Rev. Anthony E. Schultz