

Funeral Service of Gloria D. Huerta
July 12, 2022
“Jesus had compassion on her” (Luke 7:13)
By Rev. Ed Weber

“Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Amen.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, especially Ernesto, family and friends of Gloria Huerta: Our hearts are heavy this day for the voice of your dear wife, mother, sister, and friend is not heard among us as we are so used to hearing it.

Our lives have felt this change in many ways since last Tuesday. But in our moments of deepest sadness, you have with you always your Refuge and Strength, the Lord of hosts, of angels is with you, your God who is your very present help in time of trouble. And says in Psalm 46, **“Be still and know that I am God.”**

He has spoken to us through His Word this past week as we have gathered together during the evenings. We heard portions of God’s Word of how He commanded life to come back to those who were asleep. We heard how He spoke to those who were asleep like Lazarus who was in the tomb for 4 days and the daughter of Jairus. They heard Jesus voice and their spirits returned to their bodies. For Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life. In Him is Life and He freely gives life to all who would trust in Him.

And the portion of Scripture that we hear together this morning is another beautiful story of Jesus speaking to a lifeless son of a widow and he comes back to life. In Luke 7, Jesus sees a funeral procession and leads the crowd that follows Him to it. He stops the funeral procession and speaks to the mother. As we heard just a moment ago, Luke 7:13 says.

“When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, “Do not weep.”

The Lord Jesus spoke to the widow of Nain in her great distress for He had great compassion on her. The Lord of life stopped a funeral of a lifeless boy and spoke His powerful word to the boy.

““Young man, I say to you, arise.” So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to his mother.”

Jesus had compassion on her. He saw her great need. She was a widow and now her only son was gone. With no husband and no son, she felt much loneliness and sadness.

“When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, “Do not weep.”

Compassion. Great love and compassion. That is our God. Our world since the fall into sin of Adam and Eve has felt the sadness of death that we will all return to dust. But God looked down from heaven and had compassion on our fallen world. He was moved with compassion to help us. And He did so in the greatest way, by sending His only begotten Son Jesus to us to face death and the devil who brought sin to our world and conquer them. How? By dying for us, all of us, for Gloria, and raising Himself from the dead!

Jesus suffered and died so that death does not have the final word. But Jesus is risen! He is the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. He has great compassion on this widow of Nain and reverses what sin has caused. For all of us have sinned including our beloved sister Gloria. All of us need Jesus' compassion!

“Cual alma perdida, entre la pobreza, de mi Jesucristo, tuvo compasión.” So, we sang in the song “Mas allá del sol”. My lost soul, Gloria's lost soul, entre la pobreza of poor sinners, Jesus had compassion!

Paul says in Romans 6:23,

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

So that this day, that the Lord has made, we celebrate the life and victory Gloria has “Mas allá del sol”, beyond the sun, beyond this universe. We will rejoice and be glad in it, that there is a beautiful home, bello hogar, for all believers in Christ, for our sister in the faith, Gloria.

Jesus gives a gift to the widow of Nain. He gives her son back to her. And Jesus had compassion on Gloria. He had compassion on her and gave her the gift of life, eternal through faith in Him! And we celebrate that gift this day, even in the midst of our sadness.

Who has the audacity to stop a funeral procession? Only Jesus the Son of God. How could Jesus say to the woman of Nain, **“Do not weep”**? Because in this command is the promise that He has the power to take away the cause of her weeping. Jesus has the power over death! And when Jesus spoke to her son, he listened. All have to listen to Jesus, whether dead or alive.

And on the last day, Jesus will command His beloved sons and daughters, including Gloria, who are asleep to arise! So we heard this passage from 1 Thessalonians 4 this week in our devotions.

“16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.”

Yes, we weep in this world because funeral processions bring sadness to our hearts. But Jesus, the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End, has prepared our heavenly mansion for all who believe in Him. And there is no sadness, no tears and no weeping in heaven – only His joy, peace and complete happiness!

Indeed, Jesus stopped the funeral procession to eternal death when He died on the cross and buried our sins. He had compassion on the whole world and has freed you and me and Gloria from eternal condemnation.

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”

Jesus had compassion on Gloria when He saw her great need of salvation and stopped her procession that would lead to eternal death and gave her life! When? When our dear sister was baptized into Christ! **“God has visited His people.”** God visited Gloria with His love and forgiveness.

Listen to these precious words from Romans 6 that Gloria heard often and that took away her weeping.

“Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,”

Those who are baptized into Christ walk in newness of life, forgiven, washed of their sins and living with the sure hope that one will rise from the dead on the last day. That is the cause of our rejoicing especially today, that Gloria had received this compassion from her Lord Jesus and lived with this love of Jesus in her life.

And our compassionate God sees all of us this day and the many things that cause us sorrow, suffering and pain in our lives and He offers us the gift of life. God continues to visit His people, you and me with His mercy and love through His powerful Word and Baptism and the Lord’s Supper.

Trust in the Lord as your Refuge and Strength. Your very present help in time of trouble. Be still and know that He is God who has the power over all your enemies of sin, death and the devil. Look to your baptism for great comfort that you are united with the crucified and risen Lord. And know this, as Gloria surely knew ...

“For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:38-39)

Yes, Jesus gave the son back to the widow of Nain. Remain faithful to God all the days of your life and He will give you also the crown of life. And on that last day, Jesus will give you back all your loved ones in Christ, including our sister Gloria. And together with our Lord, we will enjoy an eternity in heaven where there is no more weeping, sorrow, or sin. “Mas allá del sol!”

All glory to our Triune God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your heart and minds through Christ Jesus.” Amen. (Philippians 4:7)