



### **Lent reflection for Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>**

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Luke 7:11-17

Soon afterwards Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went with him. As he approached the gate of the town, a man who had died was being carried out. He was his mother's only son, and she was a widow; and with her was a large crowd from the town. When the Lord saw her, he had compassion for her and said to her, 'Do not weep.' Then he came forward and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, 'Young man, I say to you, rise!' The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized all of them; and they glorified God, saying, 'A great prophet has risen among us!' and 'God has looked favorably on his people!' This word about him spread throughout Judea and all the surrounding country.

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Today's reflection is by Casey Labbancz

I found myself surprisingly emotional when reflecting on this reading. I am a mother of two and my biggest fear is that something will happen to my children. You can ask my husband - it is something I worry about constantly. My second biggest fear is that something will happen to my husband.

Reading this passage from the Gospel, I can't imagine what this poor mother was going through. She was a widow and was about to bury her son. I think we can safely say it was probably the lowest moment of her life. I am sure she was thinking how she could even go on living. Her despair was likely unrelenting so I can't imagine what she was thinking when Jesus came forward, touched her son's coffin and woke him from the dead. Jesus came forward and gave her

back her happiness, her life, her child. She was also seized by fear given the miraculous nature of what just happened.

Loss and grief are very real and concepts all humans grapple with in their life. Whether it's collective grief like what we experienced during the pandemic or in wars or extreme poverty - or individual and familial grief- the loss of a family member or child. In these moments it is easy to question the existence of God.

However, this reading reminds us that God is always there for us - even in the worst of times. Unfortunately I don't think Jesus will come down every time we lose someone to resurrect them - but it's a wonderful reminder that he is always there to say "do not weep." It can be hard finding faith in the darkest of times and this reading really struck a chord, especially as a mother.

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Casey Dolan Labbancz lives with her husband, Dennis, two kids, Eleanor and Charlie, and dog, Bones, in Greenwood.

She works in TV news and has been attending Holy Apostles for almost a year. Casey loves spending time with her family, Brooklyn, animals, hip-hop and quoting movies.

