

ICCH

International Catholic Community of Heidelberg

St. Michael's Church, Kirschgartenstr. 35, 69126 Heidelberg Südstadt
06221/13020 – office Fr. Christof Heimpel

Today's readings: Wis 1:13-15; 2:23-24 | 2 Cor 8:7, 9, 13-15 | Mk 5:21-43

Welcome Father John

June 28, 2015 – 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"God did not make death, nor does He rejoice in the destruction of the living."

God, who formed us in His imperishable image, did not intend for us to die, we hear in today's first reading. And in the moving story in today's Gospel, we see Jesus liberate a little girl from the possession of death.



Mark is recounting an event that led the disciples to understand Jesus' authority and power over even the final enemy, death. On another level, however, this episode is written to strengthen our hope that we too will be raised from the dead, along with all our loved ones who sleep in Christ.

Jesus commands the girl to "Arise!" - using the same Greek word used to describe His own resurrection. And the consoling message of today's Gospel is that Jesus is the resurrection and the life. If we believe in Him, even though we die, we will live. We are called to have the same faith as the parents in the Gospel today - praying for our loved ones, trusting in Jesus' promise that even death cannot keep us apart. Notice the parents follow Him even though those in their own house tell them there is no hope, and even though others ridicule Jesus' claim that the dead have only fallen asleep.

Already in baptism, we've been raised to new life in Christ. And the Eucharist, like the food given to the little girl today, is the pledge that He will raise us on the last day.

We should rejoice, as we sing in today's Psalm, that He has brought us up from the netherworld, the pit of death. And, as Paul exhorts in today's Epistle, we should offer our lives in thanksgiving for this gracious act, imitating Christ in our love and generosity for others.

[shortened from: <https://stpaulcenter.com/reflections/arise-scott-hahn-reflects-on-the-thirteenth-sunday-in-ordinary-time>]

OUR PROGRAM FOR JULY

SOCIAL GATHERING: As usual, after our first Sunday mass of the month (**July 5**) all parishioners are invited to spend some time together, talk and eat with each other. A special invitation goes to new members of ICCH. Our Socials' Team will be happy about volunteers to help out and about everyone bringing a dish to share!

CONFESSIONS: Make use of the monthly scheduled opportunity to receive God's mercy in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation – on **July 12, after mass**.

PARISH FEAST: The parish of St Michael celebrates their "Südstadtfest" on July 11 and 12. It will be a parish feast in ecumenical cooperation with the protestant church of St Markus and the Baptist community. As part of the St Michael parish, our ICCH team would like to **support the feast by volunteering** for different practical tasks during the Parish Feast. It is an opportunity for us to become more involved with the life of our parish in general and to make ICCH known to others. Please contact Edem or Daniela if you would like to join!

If you would like to be added to our email list please send your contact information to:

infoheidelberg@internationalcatholiccommunity.com