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*"Christ caring for People
through People"*

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Jesus returned to Galilee powerful in the Spirit. News that he was back spread through the countryside. As he always did on the Sabbath, he went to the meeting place. When he stood up to read, he was handed the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll, he found the place where it was written,

"God's Spirit is on me; he's chosen me to preach the Message of good news to the poor, Sent me to announce pardon to prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, To set the burdened and battered free, to announce, "This is God's year to act!" He rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the assistant, and sat down. Every eye in the place was on him, intent. Then he started in, "You've just heard Scripture make history. It came true just now in this place." Luke 4:14-2 ...

Jesus went to the village Nain. His disciples were with him, along with quite a large crowd. As they approached the village gate, they met a funeral procession—a woman's only son was being carried out for burial. And the mother was a widow. When Jesus saw her, his heart broke. He said to her, "Don't cry." Then he went over and touched the coffin. The pallbearers stopped. He said, "Young man, I tell you: Get up." The dead son sat up and began talking. Jesus presented him to his mother. They all realized they were in a place of holy mystery, that God was at work among them. They were quietly worshipful—and then noisily grateful, calling out among themselves, "God is back, looking to the needs of his people!" The news of Jesus spread all through the country. Luke 7:11-17

Jesus knew his Father's will. He was in constant communication with his Father. More than that, as he himself said, **"God's Spirit is on me."** When Jesus came upon a funeral procession at the village gate of Nain and realized that the chief mourner had suffered a double loss, first her husband and now her only son, **"his heart broke."** As I write this we are all grieving the loss of a police officer who leaves behind not only his wife but two young children aged 9 months and 2 years. Our hearts too are breaking for them. If only we had the gift of such a strong connection with the Father and the Spirit so that we like Jesus might restore life to such a family.

Jesus had also a perfect humility. There was no boasting, no seizing of the opportunity to use the Spirit's power to make a name for himself. Instead he had earlier declared, **"God's Spirit is upon me."** This was done by God's power not his own. **"This is God's year to act!"** And the crowd that witnessed the result recognized this. **"They all realized they were in a place of holy mystery, that God was at work among them. They were quietly worshipful—and then noisily grateful, calling out among themselves, "God is back, looking to the needs of his people!"** God was given all glory. God was given all credit. Jesus neither wanted nor took any for himself.

Father when we witness your Spirit at work around us may we have the wisdom and humility to give you all the glory and praise. May we recognize when we are in a place of **"holy mystery"** then simply be **"quietly worshipful."** Amen.

(Rev.) John McGurrin