

6th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, June 30, 2024 Joint service Grace 9:00

Introduction to the day

A woman finds healing by touching Jesus' cloak, and a girl is restored to life when he takes her by the hand. In both cases a boundary is crossed: in Jesus' time the hemorrhaging woman was considered ritually unclean, polluting others by her touch, and anyone who touched a corpse also became unclean. In Mark's gospel Jesus breaks down barriers, from his first meal at a tax collector's house to his last breath on the cross as the temple curtain is torn in two. We dare to touch Jesus in our "uncleanness" and to live as a community that defines no one as an outsider.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty and merciful God, we implore you to hear the prayers of your people. Be our strong defense against all harm and danger, that we may live and grow in faith and hope, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27

A reading from 2 Samuel.

David laments over the deaths of King Saul and his son Jonathan, who was a beloved friend of David's. David mourns for Saul, the first king of Israel, even though Saul tried to kill him on several occasions. Though deeply flawed, Saul was still God's anointed.

PSALM: Psalm 130

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD. (Ps. 130:1)

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 8:7-15

A reading from 2 Corinthians.

Paul encourages the Corinthians to honor their commitment to participate in the collection his churches are organizing for the Christians in Jerusalem. He presents Jesus as an example of selfless stewardship and reminds them that Christians have received abundantly so that they can share abundantly.

GOSPEL: Mark 5:21-43

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Jairus, a respected leader, begs Jesus to heal his daughter. A woman with a hemorrhage was considered ritually unclean and treated as an outcast. Both Jairus and the unnamed woman come to Jesus in faith, believing in his power to heal and bring life out of death.

GOSPEL MESSAGE

All Are Welcome

Do you ever feel left out? Do you ever wonder if Jesus is really for *you*? Perhaps you wonder if your sins are too many, or too bad. Or perhaps life has dealt you a rotten hand, and if people only knew what was going on behind your shallow "I'm fine" at church coffee hour, they wouldn't be so friendly. Or maybe you've heard that Jesus is for the marginalized, the victims, and the irreligious—and you're

none of those things. You have a solid family, a good job, a nice church you're very involved in. *Perhaps Jesus is too busy to be bothered with my concerns, you think.*

If you've ever thought that perhaps you're not the right sort of person for the message of Jesus, today's gospel reading should set your mind at ease. In one quick story Jesus heals a woman of low status *and* the daughter of a man well respected in the community. The woman with the endless flow of blood shouldn't be near anyone, according to long-followed laws. But in faith, she dares to brush her fingers against the hem of Jesus' cloak and, instead of a rebuke, hears the loving voice of her Savior. The leader of the synagogue is precisely the sort of religious authority we tell ourselves Jesus came to cast down from their thrones. But in faith, he dares to ask Jesus into his home and, instead of a rebuke, sees the Messiah restore his daughter to life.

No matter who you are, Jesus is for you. Jew or Gentile, rich or poor, any gender, any background, marginalized or imbued with worldly power—Jesus is for you. He is not ashamed or afraid of you. He is not too busy helping others. Reach out in faith and let him show you just how much he loves you.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

One in the communion of saints and in the power of the Holy Spirit, we join our voices in prayer.

God of abundance, you fill your church with a multitude of gifts. Sustain those among us who feel they are not valued. Open our hearts to the wondrous breadth of all who call upon your name. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of creation, your goodness abounds. Multiply the fruits of the earth and rescue it from our wastefulness. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of justice, you reign in steadfast love. Bring peace between nations ravaged by war or strife Ukraine and Russia, Gaza and Israel, and illumine paths of justice and freedom for those who lead them. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of compassion, your touch brings healing and your word revives us for life. Hear our prayers for Sandra Gagnon, Karen Weigold, Keith Weckwerth, Shirley Glickman, Marilyn Schneider, Denita Wolfgram, Stephanie Yourth, Christopher Yourth, Linda Boland, Glenda Panke, Debbie Thom, Donna L Hoffman, Walter Hobden, Harold Yourth and those in long term care facilities and senior residences all who are in need, and for doctors, nurses, and health care workers who provide care. Turn wailing into dancing and weeping into joy.

In this moment of silence we name out loud or in the quiet of our hearts, those you need your healing touch. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of community, you gather us at your table of plenty. Where there is hunger among us, open our hands. Where we are indifferent to the needs of others, open our hearts. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of the ages, great is your faithfulness. We remember in thanksgiving our beloved dead who with all the saints sing without ceasing in your realm of glory. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, holy and merciful: into your outstretched arms we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

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