

The Twenty Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Luke 8:41-56

And, behold, there came a man named Jairus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue: and he fell down at Jesus' feet, and besought him that he would come into his house: For he had one only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she lay a dying. But as he went the people thronged him. And a woman having an issue of blood twelve years, which had spent all her living upon physicians, neither could be healed of any, Came behind him, and touched the border of his garment: and immediately her issue of blood stanch'd. And Jesus said, Who touched me? When all denied, Peter and they that were with him said, Master, the multitude throng thee and press thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me? And Jesus said, Somebody hath touched me: for I perceive that virtue is gone out of me. And when the woman saw that she was not hid, she came trembling, and falling down before him, she declared unto him before all the people for what cause she had touched him, and how she was healed immediately. And he said unto her, Daughter, be of good comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace. While he yet spake, there cometh one from the ruler of the synagogue's house, saying to him, Thy daughter is dead; trouble not the Master. But when Jesus heard it, he answered him, saying, Fear not: believe only, and she shall be made whole. And when he came into the house, he suffered no man to go in, save Peter, and James, and John, and the father and the mother of the maiden. And all wept, and bewailed her: but he said, Weep not; she is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laugh'd him to scorn, knowing that she was dead. And he put them all out, and took her by the hand, and called, saying, Maid, arise. And her spirit came again, and she arose straightway: and he commanded to give her meat. And her parents were astonished: but he charg'd them that they should tell no man what was done. (KJV)

The present Gospel verifies the Lord Jesus Christ's ability to heal longstanding ailments and to restore life to the dead. God's Holy Church prescribes this Gospel to validate the hope in believers and to encourage faith and patience.

The woman with the issue of blood for twelve years had her hope and strong faith validated when she touched Jesus and was healed. Believers of every generation with long standing conditions find hope in this Gospel reading.

Jairus and his wife learned of Jesus' power over death when their daughter was restored to life. Believers always can turn to the Lord Jesus Christ in hope when death affects a loved one.

The Holy Apostle Paul wrote to the Thessalonians: " But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope." (I Thess. 4:13)

The Orthodox Funeral service is a service of hope in the Resurrection. Every Sunday in God's Holy Church is a celebration of Jesus Christ's Resurrection. The Gospel reading for today makes clear Jesus' power over death.

Moments of gloom and negativity arise in the world with regularity. The present Gospel is a Gospel of hope overcoming despair. Believers with illnesses and struggling with the death of a loved one have reason always to hope.

When circumstances arise in life that are challenging, the Lord Jesus Christ brings light to the darkest moments of life. The Lord Jesus Christ lifts believers from despair and depression to hope and internal peace.

The woman with the long-standing issue of blood acted on her hope and faith. She reached out to Jesus and she was healed. Persons of every generation are able to learn from this woman to reach out to Jesus in strong faith and hope.

Jairus turned to Jesus and besought Jesus to heal his daughter who was dying. Jairus hope in Jesus was not in vain. Even after the report of the daughter's death, Jairus had reason to hope and found joy in Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ brings joy in the most difficult circumstances of life for those turning to Christ in faith and hope. Jesus Christ does not disappoint believers dealing with difficult illnesses and even death.

Jesus Christ brings peace and order to life. Jesus Christ brings newness to life out of the darkest moments of life. The present Gospel is a lesson for believers to always keep in mind.

Hope and faith in Christ always have a place in life. During this time of the Nativity Fast, believers have the opportunity to strengthen personal faith and hope. The Holy Gospel is filled with lessons of hope in Christ.

Nourishment for the soul rests in the Holy Gospel. The Divine services of the Church keep serious believers' hope and faith strong. The Lord Jesus Christ did not disappoint the woman with the issue of blood. He did not disappoint Jairus.

During this time leading to the Feast of the Nativity of Jesus Christ, the Nativity Fast is an opportunity for believers to strengthen personal faith and hope in Jesus Christ.

Being attentive in the Church's Divine services, reading the Holy Scriptures, fasting and prayer prepare a believer for the difficulties arising in life. Honoring the Nativity Fast is a most beneficial investment.

Strength to deal with the difficulties in life comes best from the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus taught the woman with the issue of blood and Jairus the value of continuing to have hope and strong faith.

The present Gospel verifies that Jesus is stronger and dominant over longstanding illness and death. Order and hope for life are revealed in the present Gospel.

The present Gospel enables believers to have a positive outlook in life at all times. Joy in life is always present in Jesus Christ. The Holy Gospel is a constant message of faith and hope at all times and in all places.

The Twenty Fourth Sunday after Pentecost. Holy Apostles Philemon, Apphia and Archippu; Holy Martyr Cecilia. November 22/December 5, 2021. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic