

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 charged them that they should tell no man what was done. (KJV)

The Holy Gospel is proclaimed in each Divine Liturgy to nourish and unite believers with Jesus Christ. The Gospel reaches into the depths of receptive hearts, minds and souls.

God's Holy Church exists for believers to continuously experience the Lord Jesus Christ. Experiences will vary according to the degree of the person's faith and interest.

The present Gospel gives two vivid examples of the possibilities when strong faith and interest in Jesus Christ exist. Today's Gospel verifies the value of reaching out in faith to Jesus Christ.

The woman with the issue of blood for twelve years had spent her living seeking a cure from physicians. Her experience in seeking a cure without Jesus Christ was to no avail.

When the woman approached Jesus in faith, she was healed immediately. Jesus recognized and verified the value of the woman's faith. Persons hearing today's Gospel are challenged to honestly examine their degree of faith in Jesus Christ.

Jairus appealed to Jesus for the healing of his young daughter who was dying. Jairus was a person of authority in the synagogue. In his demeanor, Jairus demonstrated humility before Jesus by falling down before Him.

Time elapsed from the time Jairus left his house to go to see Jesus, His daughter died during that time. The devastating news of the daughter's death was not a deterrent to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ is the Conqueror of Death. Jesus Christ is the Giver and Restorer of Life. When the news of the girl's death arrived, Jesus told Jairus not to fear. Jesus told Jairus to believe.

Jesus went to Jairus' house and restored life to the young girl. The Holy Apostles Peter, James and John in addition to Jairus and his wife were known witnesses recorded in the Gospel of this great life-giving miracle.

The present Gospel has been preserved down through the centuries in God's Holy Church. The healing of the woman with the issue of blood and the restoring of life to Jairus' daughter are intended to build up believers' lives in Jesus Christ.

The Church offers the life in Christ to all in the world willing to move away from sin and choose the way of Christ. The Church offers the nourishment, instruction and the Holy Mysteries to experience the life in Christ and to sustain it.

Humility and repentance are essential in the life in Jesus Christ. Firm faith and belief in Christ are required. Jesus Christ offers hope and the avenue to the Kingdom of God at all times even when devastating news is received.

Twelve years of affliction did not deter the woman with the issue of blood from turning to Jesus. She reached out in faith. The woman's initiative and strong faith in Jesus Christ proved worthwhile.

Jairus did not turn away from Jesus when he heard his daughter had died. Jairus accompanied Jesus to his home in faith. Jesus Christ brought lasting joy to Jairus, his wife and daughter when the daughter was restored to life.

Listeners to the present Gospel choose whether to take the Gospel to heart and make it a part of their lives. The Divine Liturgy unites believers with Jesus Christ. The Gospel reading is an integral part of the unifying experience.

Each moment is an opportunity to live in Jesus Christ. During every element of time a person can be united with Jesus Christ. Each person chooses whether to unite the heart, mind and soul with Christ at every moment of life.

The world and evil challenge the believer at every instance. Temptations and perils exist to tarnish the soul and corrupt the heart and mind. Persons of strong and resolute faith turn to Jesus Christ for life-sustaining help.

Jairus and the woman with the issue of blood are two enduring examples for believers today to remain united with Jesus Christ. God's Holy Church proclaims this Gospel message each year because of the life-giving and life-sustaining value.

The Twenty Fourth Sunday after Pentecost. Holy and All-praised Apostle Philip. November 14/27, 2022. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic