

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 laughed 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)

Apodasis of the Feast of the Entry of the Mother of God into the Temple
Luke 10:38-42, 11:27-28

Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word. But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me. And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her. And it came to pass, as he spake these things, a certain woman of the company lifted up her voice, and said unto him, Blessed is the womb that bare thee, and the paps which thou hast sucked. But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it. (KJV)

We gather today in God's Holy Church on the Twenty Fourth Sunday after Pentecost. This is the time to consider the condition of our souls and seek nourishment from the Lord God.

Today also is the Leave-taking of the Feast of the Entry of the Mother of God into the Temple. The celebration of the Feast concludes today. Lessons from the Feast of the Mother of God continue throughout life.

Both Gospels for today offer nourishment for the soul. Both Gospels provide wisdom for renewal of the life in Jesus Christ. Attentive believers take the Gospel messages to heart and make them a part of daily life.

The Gospel for the Twenty Fourth Sunday is clear on expressing the value of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Jairus' faith in turning to Jesus Christ for the healing of his daughter was well-placed.

The woman with the issue of blood for twelve years was healed immediately when she reached out to Jesus in faith. Skeptics exist in today's world about the ability of Jesus Christ to heal. Skeptics have always existed.

Believers may have doubts deep within the recesses of their hearts and minds about Jesus' power to heal. The Gospel for the Twenty Fourth Sunday is clear and convincing. The Gospel for today has endured through the centuries.

Healing by Jesus Christ is determined by Christ and the power of Christ. Jesus determines the appropriate healing for each person turning to Him in faith. Believers have the responsibility to understand Jesus' response to their desires.

Trusting in the ultimate wisdom of Jesus is the believer's responsibility. Initially it looked as if Jairus' daughter was dead and would remain dead. Jesus transformed the daughter's death into new life for her.

Jesus offers new life for each person dying in sin and seeking renewal in Christ. The Nativity Fast is an opportunity to seek renewal in Christ. The Mother of God offers a permanent inspiring example of a life lived in purity.

The Gospel for the Leave-taking of the Feast of the Entry affirms the value of heeding the word of God and keeping it. This same Gospel message is common to all the feasts of the Mother of God. The same lesson is for all of life.

Every day is a challenge in life. Believers face trials and temptations capable of corrupting the soul. The Lord God is ever-present to provide hope and the path to the Kingdom of God and eternal life.

Today's Gospel readings and the readings for each day offer nourishment and guidance. Serious believers heed the daily Scriptures readings and seek to live by them.

Jesus Christ did not disappoint Jairus. Jesus did not disappoint the woman with the issue of blood reaching out in faith. Jesus will never disappoint individuals turning to him in complete faith.

The Twenty Fourth Sunday after Pentecost. The Apodasis of the Feast of the Entry of the Theotokos in the Temple. Holy Hieromartyr Clement, Pope of Rome. November 25/December 9, 2024. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic