



**Introduction**

*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.*

**Confession and Forgiveness**

In the name of the Father, and of the ✚ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone.

Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and one another.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.**

**We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,**

**by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;**

**we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,**

**so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,**

**to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved.

In the name of ✚ Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen**

**Opening Hymn ELW # 834 / LBW # 526 *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise***

*Listen and sing along [here](#).*

**Prayer of the Day**

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: Lamentations 3:22-33**

*The book of Lamentations is one of our most important sources of information about the fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonians in 587 BCE. Though the people admit that God's judgment was just, today's reading declares a fervent trust that God will not leave them forever.*

*Read the complete text [here](#).*

**Psalm: Psalm 30**

<sup>1</sup>I will exalt you, O LORD, because you have lifted me up  
and have not let my enemies triumph over me.

<sup>2</sup>**O LORD my God, I cried out to you, and you restored me to health.**

<sup>3</sup>You brought me up, O LORD, from the dead;  
you restored my life as I was going down to the grave.

<sup>4</sup>**Sing praise to the LORD, all you faithful; give thanks in holy remembrance.**

<sup>5</sup>God's wrath is short; God's favor lasts a lifetime.  
Weeping spends the night, but joy comes in the morning.

<sup>6</sup>**While I felt secure, I said, "I shall never be disturbed.**

<sup>7</sup>You, LORD, with your favor, made me as strong as the mountains."  
Then you hid your face, and I was filled with fear.

<sup>8</sup>**I cried to you, O LORD; I pleaded with my Lord, saying,**

<sup>9</sup>"What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the pit?  
Will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?"

<sup>10</sup>**Hear, O LORD, and have mercy upon me; O LORD, be my helper."**

<sup>11</sup>You have turned my wailing into dancing;  
you have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy.

<sup>12</sup>**Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing;  
O LORD my God, I will give you thanks forever.**

**Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 8:7-15**

*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.*

*Read the complete text [here](#).*

### **Gospel: Mark 5:21-43**

*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.*

*Read the complete text [here](#).*

### **Reflection on the Text**

When I read this gospel text, I can't help but think of the insurance commercials from several years ago that said – repeatedly - “Life comes at you fast.” Remember those?

We know that things often happen “immediately” in Mark’s gospel. Scholars call this particular passage, with its story within a story a Markan sandwich, since they happen more than once in Mark’s gospel. But the truth is, as we well know, life does come at you fast.

Apparently, it did for Jesus, too. Calm the storm; reassure the disciples that they are not going to perish. (That was last week’s gospel text.) Then drive a legion of demons from a possessed man into a herd of pigs and watch them run off a cliff into the sea in a frenzy. (The previous passage, which is not included in the Sunday lectionary.)

Get off the boat and hike into town to be greeted by one of the local church council members who is frantic with fear for his deathly sick daughter. Agree to go help and start walking across town, only to feel power suddenly drain from him.

Look around trying to figure out who needs his help; who in fact has already claimed – and received help – because of her faith, while the disciples skeptically ask him how he could possibly expect to find out who touched him in the crowd.

We’ve been in a rush something like that before. From one task to another. We’ve also been in the press of a crowd before, too - although perhaps not recently - when shoulders and elbows jostle against us and we don’t have a clue who actually touched us.

Life, with worry, sickness, and even death, has been coming at us fast. We may have more empathy for Jesus now than usual when we contemplate the schedule of events and the serious needs that Mark recounts.

And then, this sudden drain in power. Jesus needs to know what happened. It is almost like someone who realized their pocket has been picked or their purse has been snatched in the press of a crowd. Jesus KNOWS that something unusual has happened.

The woman, desperate for a cure, embarrassed to step up and ASK Jesus, wanted to remain anonymous. She knew that her touch – besides being indecent in polite company – would make him ritually unclean. But she came forward, and as Jairus had just a few moments ago, she fell down at Jesus' feet.

Can you imagine the frantic father during all this? He must have been going ahead to show Jesus the way or to clear a path through the crowd. Suddenly he would realize that Jesus was no longer following him, and turn back to see this other situation unfold.

I imagine him practically hopping from one foot to another in his anxiety for his daughter and his desire to have Jesus hurry after him. But Jesus wouldn't be hurried. Just as he knew he had time to calm the storm and keep the disciples from perishing, Jesus knew he had time to find out what had happened.

Jesus, the Son of God who calmed the storm. Jesus, the Son of the Most High God who even the demons could recognize. Jesus, the much sought-after healer; stopped. He found the woman who touched his cloak and took time to reassure her; to name her a beloved daughter of God; before sending her on her way with her life completely changed by their miraculous encounter.

After that he turned, and it was time to continue on. To hurry on to the next thing, to step past the scoffing crowd of paid mourners and speak gently to the already dead but now just sleeping girl. "Little one, it's time to wake up."

And then, in what must be a preview of what is coming soon, the feeding of the multitude, Jesus turns to this young woman's family and tells them to feed her. Waking from the dead must require a special breakfast!

Rushing from one situation to another, providing healing and comfort must have taken a toll on Jesus. I wonder what kind of meals he took time to eat and how he ever found enough time to rest. Perhaps it is no wonder that he could fall asleep in the boat, even in a storm. And we know from scripture that he sometimes slipped away from the crowd and the disciples for quiet times of prayer.

This can provide a helpful model for us during our busy lives. To do the work that we need to do to care for others – but also to take times for rest and for prayer.

Most of all, we know that life really does come at us fast. Our calendars are full and our lives are even fuller. With celebrations and wonderful things as well as worries, illnesses, and change of all kinds.

But what does not change is God's loving care for us. When we rejoice, God is with us. When we struggle, God is with us. And when we are dejected and filled with sorrow, God is still with us – walking with us each step of the way. Sometimes carrying us when we cannot take another step on our own.

We can always reach out to God, asking for help in prayer, trusting that God is listening and will answer our prayer. Just as Jesus found the time to help those in dire need who asked him for help, God is always with us – even when we forget to ask!

When the world seems uncertain and life comes at you fast, may you always feel the certainty, and the peace and comfort of God’s sustaining presence. Amen.

**Hymn of the Day ELW # 712 (vs 1, 2, 4) / LBW # 423**

*Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service*

*Listen and sing along [here](#).*

**Apostles’ Creed**

*We profess our faith with the whole church in all times and places:*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Prayers of Intercession**

Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

*A brief silence.*

God of hope, the ministry of your church extends across borders, from nearby neighbors to far and distant countries. Accompany all those who labor eagerly in service of the gospel, that through your good news all might experience transformation.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, we give you thanks for the air we breathe, the water we drink, the land that provides our food. Guard all species of plants and animals from harsh changes in climate and empower us to protect all you have made.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Righteous God, we pray for nations and their leaders. Give them a spirit of compassion and steer them towards a fair distribution of resources; that none among us would have too much or too little. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of healing, your touch has the power to make us whole. We pray for those suffering from physical or mental illness. Embrace those who are sick, especially those we name now. Surround them with your unwavering presence.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this assembly and all those gathered together in worship. Revive our spirits, renew our relationships, and rekindle our faith, that we might experience resurrection in this community. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give thanks for the faithful ancestors in every age whose lives have pointed us towards you. Envelop them in your love, that with all your saints, we may be reunited with one another in the last days. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace. **Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

**Closing Hymn ELW # 733/ WOV # 771      *Great Is Thy Faithfulness***

*Listen and sing along [here](#).*

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Today's reflection was written by Pastor Ruth Ann Sipe.