

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, Mark 5:21-43 (Proper 8)  
Jairus' Daughter / The Sick Woman

Lamentations 3:22-33

Psalm 30

2 Corinthians 8:7-15

*Preached at the Lutheran Church of Our Saviour, Greenville, SC on Sunday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021.*

Grace to you and peace from God our Father \_\_\_ and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

\***Trust** ...It is **trust** that all strong and healthy relationships are based upon.

For without **trust**, a relationship cannot survive. \_\_\_

**Saint Paul** wrote in the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter of his **first** letter to the **Corinthians**:

“...now faith, hope, and love abide ... these three;  
and the greatest of these is **love**.” ...

But it is good to keep in mind that without **trust**, we cannot have **faith**;  
without **trust**, we cannot have **hope**;  
and without **trust**, we can certainly not have **love**. \_\_\_

In today's Gospel reading, we hear of **two** people placing their **trust** in Jesus.

First we have **Jairus** - a well-known leader of the **synagogue**.

Because of the position he held, **Jairus** was, most likely, very **wealthy**  
and was held in **high regard** by the general public. \_\_\_

And then we have an **unnamed woman**

who was considered **unclean** by **ceremonial law**  
due to her disease of a **constant discharge** of blood.

This woman was **un-welcomed** in the synagogue and in her society.

Any **physical contact** with this woman  
would also classify **others** as being **unclean**.

And so, people who knew of her condition, would undoubtedly **avoid** her.

And it was her **obligation** to **cry out** to others  
when they were approaching her,  
“**Unclean! Unclean!**” ... in order to prevent any **contact**. \_\_\_

Our reading today tells us this woman had **spent** all of her money  
seeking a **cure** from doctors to **end** her illness,  
but they could do **nothing** for her, and her condition **grew worse**. \_\_\_

\*And so, we find Jesus on the shore of **Lake Galilee**  
surrounded by a crowd of people;

**in which** we find **Jairus**

who **boldly** steps forward and **throws** himself at Jesus' feet,  
**pleading** Jesus to come to his home, to **heal** his daughter who was near death.

... And we **also** find in this crowd the **unnamed woman**

who **discreetly** keeps **quiet** about her condition  
in order to get **close** enough to Jesus  
in the chance that even the **lightest touch** of his garment  
would make her **healthy** once again. \_\_\_\_

Here we have the **rich** and the **poor** seeking **help** from Christ.

**Both** came to Jesus;

**trusting** that he could restore **peace** and **wellness** in their lives,  
**trusting** in his **never-ending** love for **all** people  
- whether they be **wealthy** or whether they be **destitute**. \_\_\_\_

\*When we examine today's Gospel reading,  
we find many **similarities** between the two parties involved:

**Jairus** falls at Jesus' feet. Also, the **unnamed woman** does the same.

**Jairus** is seeking help for his daughter.

**Jesus** calls the **unnamed woman** "Daughter."

**Jairus' daughter** is twelve years old.

The **unnamed woman** has been suffering with her **hemorrhage**  
for twelve years.

Jesus tells **Jairus**, "Believe and your daughter will be made well."

Jesus tells the **unnamed woman**, "Your faith has made you well."

**Jesus' touch** raises **Jairus' daughter** and immediately restores her to good health.

**Touching Jesus** made the unnamed woman well,  
immediately restoring **her** to good health.

And both the **daughter** and the **woman**

are **cleansed** from what their society considered **unclean**;  
that being **in contact** with a **dead body**,  
and being **in contact** with a woman **discharging blood**. \_\_\_\_

\*When **we too** are in **contact** with **Christ** in our lives,  
we are **immediately** made **whole**;  
**healed** of our ailments and **cleansed** of our filthiness.

Through **baptism** into the death and resurrection of Christ,  
we are washed **clean** of our sin and **purified** in the sight of our Lord.  
Through **baptism** into the death and resurrection of Christ  
we can **trust** in God's promise of **everlasting life**. \_\_\_\_

**When** we but **trust** in the **Holy Spirit** to **guide** us,  
we can face **any** obstacle which comes our way.

**When** we but place our **confidence** in **Christ**,  
we will obtain the **calmness** required to endure **troubled times**.

And **when** we but **cast away** our **fear** and **believe** in **God**,  
we will find that **God** never **forsakes** us in times of **need**. \_\_\_\_

\*But unfortunately, we humans do not always **place** our **trust** in God.

There are times when **fear** enters our hearts,  
attempting to **sever** the relationship we so **need** with our Lord.

**Jairus** was filled with **fear** when the group of people came from his home  
to tell him that his daughter had died;  
that he need not bother the Teacher any longer. \_\_\_\_

And the **unnamed woman** was filled with **fear** ... and **trembled**  
when she was **discovered** among the crowd. \_\_\_\_

But Jesus soothed **both** of their **hearts**. \_\_\_\_

He tells the **woman**, "Daughter, your faith has made you well;  
go in **peace**, and be **healed** of your disease."

And he tells **Jairus**, "Do not **fear**, only **believe**." ... ..

**Find strength** in knowing that, no matter what may happen in our lives,  
our **Lord** will continue to **love** us and **trust** in us. \_\_\_\_

\*If we but **trust** in **God** to guide us  
and not let our **fears** or the **words** of others curve us **away** from God's love for us,  
what **strength** and **peace** we would **all** have! \_\_\_\_

Although **trust** among human beings may **wane** from time to time,  
always remember that **Christ's trust** in **us** will never **diminish**!

**Saint John** writes,

"God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him - **everyone who trust in him** -  
may **not** perish but may **have** eternal life.

**Indeed**, God did **not** send the Son into the world  
to **condemn** the world,  
but in order that the world might be **saved** through him.” ...

The **first reading** appointed for this day from the book of **Lamentations** states:  
“The steadfast love of the Lord **never** ceases,  
his mercies **never** come to an end.” ...

And yet, what is it that **distracts** us from **trusting** in God? \_\_\_\_

Could it be that we place our trust in **other gods**?  
Do we trust **more** in the god of **money**? the god of **greed**? the god of **selfishness**? ...

There is but **one** God who can **safe** us.  
There is but **one** God who can **provide** for our every **need**.  
There is but **one** God who walks **beside** us **every day**;  
who **guides** us and **protects** us  
from the **evils** of the world and the **temptations** of the devil.

There is but **one** God in which to place our complete **trust** and **love**.

And that **God** is the *Lord God Almighty*:  
the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit!  
our Creator, our Redeemer, our Sanctifier!  
- **One God** presented to us in three persons. \_\_\_\_

It is through **this** God - the **one and only** God - that we receive **good health**:  
physically, mentally, and spiritually.

Both **Jairus’ daughter** and the **unnamed woman** were healed **physically**;  
their bodies were restored to **wholeness**.

Both **Jairus** and the **woman** were healed **psychologically**;  
their anguish over **death** and **disease** was replaced with a **peace** of mind.

And both **Jairus** and the **woman** were healed **spiritually** ...  
Through their **contact** with Christ,  
their **faith** and **trust** in him had **grown even stronger**. \_\_\_\_

\*The **true love** of **Christ** is **present** in our lives; so **be not afraid**.  
**Rejoice** in the **trust** that **abides** in this relationship!

**Boldly** live the **slogan** that is found **printed** on our **currency** in these United States:  
“**In God** we trust.” ...

As **Christ** provides **endless love** for us, provide **endless love** for your neighbors.

**Trust** in one another and **help** each other through your **difficulties**.

Find **joy** in your **diversities** and accept **one other** for who you are.

**Freely share** of the **gifts** God has provided.

And **strive** to provide a **decent balance** between ***all*** people;  
so that the one who has **much** does not have too much,  
and the one who has **little** does not have too little.

**Rejoice** in:

God's **gracious gift** of **forgiveness**,

God's **wonderful gift** of **acceptance** of all,

and God's **greatest gift**:

The giving of his **Son** Jesus Christ

as a **sacrifice** for our sin and the **redemption** of humankind. \_\_\_\_

Amen.