

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

Olaf Roynesdal, Senior Pastor
Shari Duminy, Associate Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor
Inba Inbarasu, Visitation Pastor

2650 Farnam Street
Omaha, NE 68131-3616
402-341-7761
www.kmlchurch.org

June 27, 2021

9:00 AM

FIFTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



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.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, Father, † Son and Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P God our provider,

C help us we pray.

It is hard to believe there is enough to share.

We question your ways when they differ from our ways.

**We turn to our own understanding
rather than trusting in you.**

We take offense at your teachings and your ways.

Turn us again to you.

Where else can we turn?

Share with us the words of eternal life

and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

P Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, † the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

C Amen.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace!</p> <p>2 My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad
the honors of your name.</p> <p>3 The name of Jesus charms our fears
and bids our sorrows cease,
sings music in the sinner's ears,
brings life and health and peace.</p> | <p>4 He speaks, and list'ning to his voice,
new life the dead receive;
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice,
the humble poor believe.</p> <p>5 Look unto him, your Savior own,
O fallen human race!
Look and be saved through faith alone,
be justified by grace!</p> <p>6 To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever giv'n
by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heav'n.</p> |
|--|---|

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

- ☐** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- ☒** **And also with you.**

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 will live and grow in faith and hope, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

(sit)

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.

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
²³they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
²⁴“*The LORD is my portion,*” says my soul,
“*therefore I will hope in him.*”
²⁵The LORD is good to those who wait for him,
to the soul that seeks him.
²⁶It is good that one should wait quietly
for the salvation of the LORD.
²⁷It is good for one to bear
the yoke in youth,
²⁸to sit alone in silence
when the Lord has imposed it,
²⁹to put one's mouth to the dust
(there may yet be hope),
³⁰to give one's cheek to the smiter,
and be filled with insults.
³¹For the Lord will not
reject forever.
³²Although he causes grief, he will have compassion
according to the abundance of his steadfast love;
³³for he does not willingly afflict
or grieve anyone.

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

PSALM 30 (*read responsively*)

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

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

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

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

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

⁶**While I felt secure, I said,
"I shall never be disturbed.**

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

⁸**I cried to you, O LORD;
I pleaded with my Lord, saying,**

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

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

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

¹²**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.

Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.

⁸I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others. ⁹For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. ¹⁰And in this matter I am giving my advice: it is appropriate for you who began last year not only to do something but even to desire to do something—¹¹now finish doing it, so that your eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your means. ¹²For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have. ¹³I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between ¹⁴your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance. ¹⁵As it is written, “The one who had much did not have too much, and the one who had little did not have too little.”

L The word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.



Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.



When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,



warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.



Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord!**

HOLY 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.

When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the sea. ²²Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet ²³and begged him repeatedly, *“My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live.”* ²⁴So he went with him.

And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. ²⁵Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. ²⁶She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. ²⁷She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, ²⁸for she said, *“If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.”* ²⁹Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. ³⁰Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, *“Who touched my clothes?”* ³¹And his disciples said to him, *“You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, ‘Who touched me?’”* ³²He looked all around to see who had done it. ³³But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. ³⁴He said to her, *“Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.”*

³⁵While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader’s house to say, *“Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?”* ³⁶But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, *“Do not fear, only believe.”* ³⁷He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. ³⁸When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. ³⁹When he had entered, he said to them, *“Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping.”* ⁴⁰And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child’s father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. ⁴¹He took her by the hand and said to her, *“Talitha cum,”* which means, *“Little girl, get up!”* ⁴²And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. ⁴³He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(sit)

CHILDREN'S BLESSING

SERMON

Pastor Roynesdal

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service"

ELW 712

- 1 Lord, whose love in humble service
bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken,
worked your mercy's perfect deed:
we, your servants, bring the worship
not of voice alone, but heart;
consecrating to your purpose
ev'ry gift which you impart.**
- 2 Still your children wander homeless;
still the hungry cry for bread;
still the captives long for freedom;
still in grief we mourn our dead.
As you, Lord, in deep compassion
healed the sick and freed the soul,
by your Spirit send your power
to our world to make it whole.**
- 3 As we worship, grant us vision,
till your love's revealing light
in its height and depth and greatness
dawns upon our quickened sight,
making known the needs and burdens
your compassion bids us bear,
stirring us to ardent service,
your abundant life to share.**
- 4 Called by worship to your service,
forth in your dear name we go,
to the child, the youth, the aged,
love in living deeds to show;
hope and health, good will and comfort,
counsel, aid and peace we give,
that your servants, Lord, in freedom
may your mercy know and live.**

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984
Text © 1961 Oxford University Press.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

- ☐** God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ.
Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.
- ☒** 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

Response: **P** Lord, in your mercy,
 C hear our prayer.

(In our prayers today, during a time of silence, pray for those listed below and for others according to their needs)

Thanksgiving: for the birth of Cole Thomas Clanton, son of Jared & Tana Clanton

Illness: Richard Bock, Don Burton, Sandie Chavalier, family of Betty Callies, Sydney Dietrich, Carol Duncan, Mike Edris, Rodney Edwards, Richard Holzer, Rik Hooper, Renee Johnson, Mark Kidder, Jason Klonglan, Marcie Lafleur, Chris Meyer, Mary Olson, David Penning, Toby Rees, Gary Rodene, Sheri Tipton, John Waterman, Darlene White

Other Prayers: *Those serving in the military* – Amy Dyer, Wyatt Johnson, Josh Kropenske, Michael McNeill, Daniel Milstead, Cody Ray, Sheldon Skovgaard, Michael Vutov, Joel Woosley

Other Prayers: *Those serving in mission* – Rev. Chandran Paul Martin, India; Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson, Tanzania; Rev. Rachel Ringlaben, Argentina; Meghan Brown Saavedra, Mexico; and Dan & Ginny Rath, international translators

Other Prayers: *Seminarians*—Adam Klinker, Katie Larson, Giselle Loucks, Justin Perkins

WE SHARE GOD’S PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.
C And also with you.

MEAL

(sit)

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

Please Support the overall ministry of Kountze Memorial during these difficult times. If you are visiting with us today, please do not feel obligated to participate in this portion of worship. If you would like, use the QR code scanner on your smart phone to give online. If you are able, please mail in your offering or donate on-line. Thank you!



MUSICAL OFFERING

“O Master Let Me Walk With Thee”

H. Percy Smith

Dayle Johnson, *soloist*

Jean Johnson, *accompanist*

THE TABLE IS PREPARED

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

“Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”

ELW 184

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

- ☐ Jesus, Bread of life,
- ☑ you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a single melodic line with lyrics underneath. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has one long measure. The lyrics are: 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.', 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.', 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.', and 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.'

PREFACE FOR SUNDAYS IN PENTECOST

SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a single melodic line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,', 'heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.', 'Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes', and 'in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.'

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

C **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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.

C **Come!**

THE DISTRIBUTION

All baptized Christians who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and his Real Presence in, with and under the bread and wine, are welcome to the Lord's Supper. We believe that this is the Lord's table and is he who invites you. So you who are strong in faith, come with gratitude. You feel weak in faith, come to be strengthened. And you who feel you have no faith, come so that the God of steadfast love will touch your heart with hope and joy.

Gluten free bread is available; simply request it.

AGNUS DEI



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

- 1 **Come, ye disconsolate, where'er ye languish;
come to the mercy-seat, fervently kneel.
Here bring your wounded hearts,
here tell your anguish;
earth has no sorrow that heav'n cannot heal.**
- 2 **Joy of the desolate, light of the straying,
hope of the penitent, fadeless and pure;
here speaks the Comforter, tenderly saying,
"Earth has no sorrow that heav'n cannot cure."**
- 3 **Here see the Bread of life; see waters flowing
forth from the throne of God, pure from above.
Come to the feast of love; come, ever knowing
earth has no sorrow but heav'n can remove.**

Text: Thomas Moore, 1779-1852, sts. 1-2;
Thomas Hastings, 1784-1872, st. 3

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

ELW 733

- 1 **Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.**

Refrain

- Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**
- 2 **Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *Refrain***
 - 3 **Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *Refrain***

- 1 **Take my life, that I may be consecrated, Lord, to thee; take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.**
- 2 **Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love; take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.**
- 3 **Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King; take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee.**
- 4 **Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold; take my intellect and use ev'ry pow'r as thou shall choose.**
- 5 **Take my will and make it thine, it shall be no longer mine. Take my heart, it is thine own, it shall be thy royal throne.**
- 6 **Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store; take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.**

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879, alt.

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- ☞** Jesus, Bread of life,
- ☞** we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. Amen.

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SENDING

BLESSING

- ☐ The blessing of the Almighty God, Father, † Son and Holy Spirit be upon you now and forever.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

HYMN

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

ELW 543

- 1 **“Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love’s baptismal river
I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.”**

- 2 **“Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son’s story,
here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.”**

- 3 **“Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit’s power filled you,
here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.”**

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.
Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

DISMISSAL

- ☐ Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.
☑ Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

† † †

Special Notice

Reservations not required
 Vaccinated—Masks optional
 Not vaccinated—Masks required
 Please maintain a minimum of 3 feet
 between non-family members



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
 402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

June 26 & 27, 2021

You may still join us for Worship on Cox
 channel 13 or live streamed at [https://
 www.kmlchurch.org/live-streaming/](https://www.kmlchurch.org/live-streaming/)

Kountze Food Pantry

Volunteers Needed:

Mondays, 7:30 - 9 AM, 9 - 11 AM, 11 AM - 1 PM

Fridays, 4 - 7 PM

The Kountze Food Pantry is pleased to announce that our fresh produce boxes from the Farmers to Families program has been re-upped. This program provides a 25 lb. box for each person, filled with fresh vegetables and fruit. This will go through the rest of the year. The program is free for the congregation.

We are in great need of toilet paper! We only provide it on request, but apparently there is a great need for it. Please leave your donations in the box in fellowship hall, or in the office. We also need new or like new reusable tote bags (we cannot reuse plastic grocery sacks), cereal, and full-sized hygiene products. Please place your donated items in the shopping cart as you enter for church, in the donation box in the Fellowship Hall, or in the church office. Your contributions are greatly appreciated! If you are able to volunteer, please sign up by using the link below:

<https://form.jotform.com/200834787701155>

Moving Forward!!

- No reservations for worship are required.
- Face masks will not be required. We support an individual's choice to wear a mask if desired for personal protection for any reason. We are taking

this position to encourage anyone who has not been vaccinated to wear a mask without any negative implications. Indeed, many people will feel safer attending services wearing a mask.

- Those who have not been vaccinated are requested to wear a mask. We will operate under the honor system, assuming that all who attend will abide by this stipulation.
- All pews will be available for seating (the ropes have been removed) but we are recommending that non-family members sit and remain three feet apart from each other.

Today at Kountze

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in memory of Bill & Marjorie Sears by their children, Ron, Lois, and Claude

Television Broadcast is sponsored by Mary Olson in memory of mother, Betty's birthday and Father, Edward

Coffee Hour

Please feel free to stop for coffee in the Fellowship Hall following service today. We need volunteers to help serve coffee and cookies. If you can help, please see Jim Smejkal (402-341-7761 or jim@kmlchurch.org).

Attendance and Giving

Saturday Attendance: 37

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 121

Wednesday Attendance: 10

Total: 168

Streaming Attendance: 67

Cox Cable Attendance: 270

Pantry Guests Served: 861

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 26

Offering:

\$18,743.00 (Regular) \$1,712.03 (Specials)

\$3,607.00 (Debt Reduction)

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Children from 3 years to 6th grade are invited to join Pastor Shari and the Middle and High School Youth in the Kountze Green Space each Sunday. (June 20 – August 29) We will be playing games, singing songs, sharing a snack, and getting to know each other better. Parents are encouraged to share coffee time with others or join in the fun!

Healing and salvation begin now.

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Mark 5:21-43	Jesus heals and raises to life
Monday	Lamentations 3:22-33	There is still hope
Tuesday	2 Corinthians 8:7-15	Generous giving
Wednesday	Acts 4:23-31	Believers pray for boldness
Thursday	Isaiah 57:14-19	The Lord helps the helpless
Friday	Luke 4:31-41	Jesus heals many people
Saturday	Psalms 30	God turns mourning into dancing
Sunday	Mark 6:1-13	Jesus sends the twelve



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[Jesus] said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease." Mark 5:34 (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

Come Lord Jesus, in the midst of difficult times touch us with your love and send us your peace and hope in our daily lives. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this food and pray that all may receive food to live, serve, and love you and others through Jesus, the great healer. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you to know the saving grace given to you through Jesus Christ.

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- When have you or someone you know had difficult times? Explain.
- Where do you find comfort when you are going through difficult times?
- Not all illnesses are cured and not all difficulties are resolved. How has faith in God eased your pain or that of a friend's pain during an illness?

Read: Mark 5:21-43.

On the way to restore Jairus' daughter to life, Jesus realizes that healing power had gone from him to someone in the crowd. He inquires who touched him to receive the healing. A woman comes forward and explains that for 12 years she had suffered with hemorrhages (a flow of blood) that did not cease. Not only did it make her weak, it made her ritually unclean and unfit to be with others. In other words, not only did she experience physical suffering, she experienced isolation and social suffering. She was desperate and thought she might be healed through touching Jesus' garment. Jesus' first word of response was to call her "daughter," that is, someone who belongs to the community. He then adds, "*your faith has made you well*" (v. 34). The Greek text can equally be translated as "your faith has saved you." The same word for healing is the word for being saved. Salvation and healing begin for this woman because of her faith, a faith borne out of desperation. Her faith was not an expression of confidence and trust; it was simply an openness to hope against hope. With Jesus' response, she is brought into community and healed. When has faith felt more like taking a risk than a show of confidence and trust?

Pray: **Healing God, we thank you that you touch us with your saving grace now and always through Christ Jesus, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

The woman who touched Jesus' clothes and was healed was an outcast among her own people. Her illness meant that others saw her as unclean and avoided her. Who are the people in your community that are often looked down upon or left out? What act of kindness can you do for someone who may be feeling left out in some way?

Appropriate touch is a way of expressing love and care for others. Research has shown that as humans we need the touch of others to stay healthy in body, mind and spirit. Holding hands while praying and blessing someone with the sign of the cross on their hand or forehead are forms of a healthy touch. Hold hands while praying the Lord's Prayer. Then bless one another:

May God bless you to know that Jesus has touched you with peace today.

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Ezekiel 2:1-5; Psalm 123
2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13**