



**COLLECT, READINGS AND REFLECTION**  
**SUNDAY 27 JUNE 2021 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

**COLLECT**

O God, the protector of all who trust in you,  
without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy:  
increase and multiply upon us your mercy;  
that with you as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal  
that we lose not our hold on things eternal;  
grant this, heavenly Father, for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,  
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**Psalm 130**

- 1 Out of the depths have I cried to you, O Lord;  
Lord, hear my voice; ♦  
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.
- 2 If you, Lord, were to mark what is done amiss, ♦  
O Lord, who could stand?
- 3 But there is forgiveness with you, ♦  
so that you shall be feared.
- 4 I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him; ♦  
in his word is my hope.
- 5 My soul waits for the Lord,  
more than the night watch for the morning, ♦  
more than the night watch for the morning.
- 6 O Israel, wait for the Lord, ♦  
for with the Lord there is mercy;
- 7 With him is plenteous redemption ♦  
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

## **2 Corinthians 8:7-15**

<sup>7</sup>But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving. <sup>8</sup>I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. <sup>9</sup>For you know the grace of our LORD Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. <sup>10</sup>And here is my judgment about what is best for you in this matter. Last year you were the first not only to give but also to have the desire to do so. <sup>11</sup>Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means. <sup>12</sup>For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have. <sup>13</sup>Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. <sup>14</sup>At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. The goal is equality, <sup>15</sup>as it is written: "The one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little."

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

### **Jesus Raises a Dead Girl and Heals a Sick Woman**

<sup>21</sup>When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake. <sup>22</sup>Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. <sup>23</sup>He pleaded earnestly with him, "My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live." <sup>24</sup>So Jesus went with him.

A large crowd followed and pressed around him. <sup>25</sup>And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. <sup>26</sup>She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. <sup>27</sup>When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, <sup>28</sup>because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed." <sup>29</sup>Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

<sup>30</sup>At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?"

<sup>31</sup>"You see the people crowding against you," his disciples answered, "and yet you can ask, 'Who touched me?'"

<sup>32</sup> But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. <sup>33</sup> Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. <sup>34</sup> He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."

<sup>35</sup> While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. "Your daughter is dead," they said. "Why bother the teacher anymore?"

<sup>36</sup> Overhearing<sup>[a]</sup> what they said, Jesus told him, "Don't be afraid; just believe."

<sup>37</sup> He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James. <sup>38</sup> When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. <sup>39</sup> He went in and said to them, "Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep." <sup>40</sup> But they laughed at him.

After he put them all out, he took the child's father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. <sup>41</sup> He took her by the hand and said to her, "*Talitha koum!*" (which means "Little girl, I say to you, get up!"). <sup>42</sup> Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished. <sup>43</sup> He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat.

### ***A reflection from Hannah...***

One of the phrases I find most difficult to hear is 'I know you are very busy, but....' It makes me feel sad to think that people sense that I don't have time for them. Ironically, when I was at my most busy- with no paid employment, three small children and lots of church ministry commitments- nobody ever said it! That's a reminder to me to once again thank all of you who minister of your own time to the church- we are so very grateful.

Anyway, whether inadvertently or deliberately, giving the impression we are busy can make people very reticent to approach us, or fearful of 'bothering' us. There's something of that going on in the Gospel reading this week. The woman who has suffered with bleeding for so long has deep faith in the healing power of Christ, but we get the impression she doesn't want to 'bother' him, and instead simply reaches out and touches his cloak. Of course she is healed, but she also *does* get his attention. There is

no lurking on the periphery where Jesus is concerned- he doesn't miss or overlook us, instead his divine gaze falls upon us, and we are noticed, loved, affirmed, brought into the light.

The second amazing thing in this story is that, because Christ chose to give time and attention to the woman, it doesn't mean something else has got to go. When the woman and Jesus have finished talking, those around him inform him that Jairus' daughter (who he was going to see) is dead- it's too late. Except it isn't. Again, that very human understanding of capacity is challenged by Christ who has time for all- who goes to her house anyway, and brings her back to life.

And so we learn in this story that we are never overlooked (sometimes despite our best efforts!), and that our blessings do not come at the cost of blessings to someone else. And those blessings flow out through us too. In the fray it can feel like there is no time, no space, no let-up- but Christ is there with us, and with Christ, in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we find that we too can minister in ways that somehow challenge our expectations of capacity. We find deep wells of strength and compassion that are the gift of God at work in us, and that speak life, wholeness, healing into a world full of trouble and longing. Amen.