

Koinonia Year Two—November
Content from *Growing Faithful*
Scripture from the NRSV Bible

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Seventh Sunday of Luke
Galatians 1:11-19 or Ephesians 2:14-22 Luke 8:41-56

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.
Come, Lord Jesus!
(Matthew 28:19b, Revelation 22:20b)

HEAR the Word of God—

(This is one of the Sundays in the liturgical year when the Epistle reading varies. Please check the designated reading for this year and follow below with that passage of Scripture.)

Galatians 1:11-19

¹¹For I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel that was proclaimed by me is not of human origin; ¹²for I did not receive it from a human source, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

¹³You have heard, no doubt, of my earlier life in Judaism. I was violently persecuting the church of God and was trying to destroy it. ¹⁴I advanced in Judaism beyond many among my people of the same age, for I was far more zealous for the traditions of my ancestors. ¹⁵But when God, who had set me apart before I was born and called me through his grace, was pleased ¹⁶to reveal his Son to me (or in me), so that I might proclaim him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with any human being, ¹⁷nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were already apostles before me, but I went away at once into Arabia, and afterwards I returned to Damascus.

¹⁸Then after three years I did go up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and stayed with him fifteen days; ¹⁹but I did not see any other apostle except James the Lord's brother.

Ephesians 2:14-22

¹⁴For he (Christ) is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. ¹⁵He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. ¹⁷So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; ¹⁸for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, ²⁰built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with

Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. ²¹In Him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; ²²in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

(Note to parents: If you have young children, you might want to tell them what the word *hemorrhage* means before reading this Gospel passage.)

Luke 8:41-56

⁴¹Just then there came a man named Jairus, a leader of the synagogue. He fell at Jesus' feet and begged him to come to his house, ⁴²for he had an only daughter, about twelve years old, who was dying.

As he went, the crowds pressed in on him. ⁴³Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years; and though she had spent all she had on physicians, no one could cure her. ⁴⁴She came up behind him and touched the fringe of his clothes, and immediately her hemorrhage stopped. ⁴⁵Then Jesus asked, "Who touched me?" When all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the crowds surround you and press in on you." ⁴⁶But Jesus said, "Someone touched me; for I noticed that power had gone out from me." ⁴⁷When the woman saw that she could not remain hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before him, she declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been immediately healed. ⁴⁸He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace."

⁴⁹While he was still speaking, someone came from the leader's house to say, "Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the teacher any longer." ⁵⁰When Jesus heard this, he replied, "Do not fear. Only believe, and she will be saved." ⁵¹When he came to the house, he did not allow anyone to enter with him, except Peter, John, and James, and the child's father and mother. ⁵²They were all weeping and wailing for her; but he said, "Do not weep; for she is not dead but sleeping." ⁵³And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. ⁵⁴But he took her by the hand and called out, "Child, get up!" ⁵⁵Her spirit returned, and she got up at once. Then he directed them to give her something to eat. ⁵⁶Her parents were astounded; but he ordered them to tell no one what had happened.

SHARE thoughts and insights—

- Share your thoughts and impressions about this Gospel passage.
- Imagine how desperate Jairus and the woman with the hemorrhage were.
 - What do you do when you are desperate?
 - Who do you go to for help?
- What can you learn from this Gospel passage?
- How is a need an opportunity to grow in faith?
- Jesus said to Jairus, "*Do not fear. Only believe...*" (verse 50).

- When would obeying these words of Jesus be easy?
- When would obeying these words of Jesus be difficult?

If the Epistle reading is Galatians 1:11-19

- Paul wrote that *God... called me through his grace*. What did this mean for Paul?
 - God calls each person *through his grace*. How does a person—how do you—recognize this grace? How does a person—how do you—receive this grace?

If the Epistle reading is Ephesians 2:14-22

- *Christ is our peace*. What is your response to this? How do you live because of this?
- How was Christ (the) peace for the *woman who had suffered from hemorrhages*?
 - Jesus said to her, *“Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace.”* How is peace a gift of faith and a gift given because of faith and in answer to faith?
- What divisions and hostilities have you experienced and / or do you experience? When have you felt and / or known yourself to be a stranger or alien? How did you / do you / could you know Christ as (your) peace in these circumstances and situations?
- How and why is *Christ Jesus himself... the cornerstone*?
- How are we *built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God*?

GROW in faith—

- Do you have any needs to take to Jesus? He is always present and open to us when we come to him in faith.
- Notice how Jesus responds to people when they come to him with their needs.
 - How do you respond to others when they come to you with their needs?
 - Is there anything you might learn from Jesus’s example in this Gospel reading?

SERVE one another in love—

- In the Gospel passage we see the healing power of touch. Give someone a good back rub or a nice massage or simply a loving hug.

PRAY—

Lord Jesus, you are our healer. Thank you for your words of encouragement and the touch of your love. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.