



THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 27, 2021

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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.

Today the Church commemorates Cyril, Bishop of Alexandria, d. 444. Cyril is remembered as an outstanding theologian and defender of orthodox teachings about the person of Christ.

✠ GATHERING ✠

OPENING HYMN

O God of Mercy, God of Light



1 O God of mer - cy, God of light, in love and
4 For all are kin - dred, far and wide, since Je - sus
5 In sick - ness, sor - row, want, or care, may we each
6 And may your Ho - ly Spir - it move all those who



mer - cy in - fi - nite, teach us, as ev - er
Christ for all has died; grant us the will, and
o - ther's bur - dens share; may we, where help is
live to live in love, till you re - ceive in



in your sight, to live our lives in you.
grace pro - vide, to love them all in you.
need - ed, there give help as though to you.
hea'vn a - bove all those who live in you.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

P. We are gathered in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C. **Amen.**

P. Trusting God's promise of forgiveness, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P. Loving God,

C. we confess that we have not loved You with our whole hearts; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have failed to worship You with our whole being and to share the abundance of grace You give us. We have acted out of selfish ambition rather than the interests of others; we have nursed grudges rather than seeking reconciliation and peace. Forgive us and renew in us the mind of Christ Jesus, that we may live according to Your will. Amen.

P. Since we are justified by faith . . . the Holy Spirit.

C. **Amen.**

GREETING

P. The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. Almighty and merciful God, we implore You to hear the prayers of Your people. Stretch out the right hand of Your majesty to be our defense against all harm and danger, that we may live and thrive through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Whom with You and the Holy Spirit we worship and praise, one God, now and forever.

C. **Amen.**

† WORD †

FIRST READING: Lamentations 3:22-33

Lamentations is one of our most important sources of information about the terrible conditions in Jerusalem after the Babylonian siege in 587 B.C. 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.

L. The Word of the Lord. C. Thanks be to God.

PSALM 30

I will exalt You, O LORD, because You have lifted me up.

I 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 to the LORD, you servants of His;
give thanks for the remembrance of His holiness.**

⁵For His wrath endures but the twinkling of an eye,
His favor for a lifetime.

⁶**Weeping may spend the night,
but joy comes in the morning.**

⁷While I felt secure, I said, "I shall never be disturbed.
You, LORD, with Your favor, made me as strong as the mountains."

⁸**Then You hid Your face,
and I was filled with fear.**

⁹I cried to You, O LORD;

I pleaded with the LORD, saying,

¹⁰“What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the pit?

Will the dust praise You or declare Your faithfulness?

¹¹Hear, O LORD, and have mercy upon me;

O LORD, be my helper.”

¹²You have turned my wailing into dancing;

You have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy.

¹³Therefore my heart sings to You without ceasing;

O LORD my God, I will give You thanks forever.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 8:7–15

In a world where compassion burns out and people may limit their concerns to problems in their own backyards, Paul urges the Corinthian church to support the Macedonians

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. C. Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



HOLY GOSPEL: St. Mark 5:21–43

Jairus, a respected leader, begs Jesus to heal his daughter. A woman with a hemorrhage is ritually unclean, treated as an outcast in Jewish society. Both Jairus and the unnamed woman come to Jesus in faith, believing in His power to heal and bring life out of death.

C. Glory to You, O Lord.

When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered around Him; and He was by the sea. ²² Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw Him, fell at His feet ²³ and 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.” ²⁴ So He went with him.

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

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

P. The Gospel of the Lord.

C. Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

We Come to You for Healing, Lord



1 We come to you for heal - ing, Lord, of
 2 As once you walked through an - cient streets and
 3 You touch us through phy - si - cians' skills, through
 4 When nights are long with wake - ful - ness, through
 5 We come to you, O lov - ing Lord, in



bod - y, mind, and soul, and pray that by your
 reached toward those in pain, come, ris - en Christ, a -
 nurs - es' gifts of care, and through the love of
 days when strength runs low, grant us your gift of
 our dis - tress and pain, in trust that through our



Spir - it's touch we may a - gain be whole.
 mong us still with pow'r to heal a - gain.
 faith - ful friends who lift our lives in prayer.
 pa - tience, Lord, your calm - ing peace to know.
 nights and days your grace will heal, sus - tain.

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 Music: MARTYRDOM, Hugh Wilson, 1764–1824
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THE APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son,
our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the
Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was
crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day He rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated
at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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

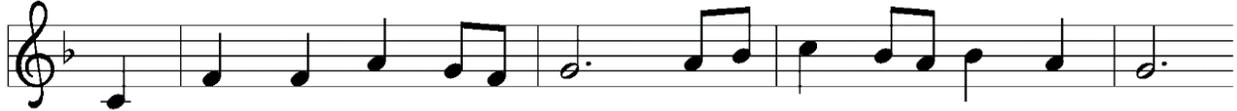
SHARING THE PEACE OF THE LORD

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+ PRAYER +

OFFERING

OFFERTORY



Re - mem - ber and re - jice, re - newed by floods of grace.
God, bless us by your grace; re - mind us of your care.



We bear the sign of Je - sus Christ, that time can - not e - rase.
Re - new - ing Spir - it, fill us now, in - spire our work, our prayer.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P. Blessed are you,

C. O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through Your goodness You have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to Your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that You have made, for the sake of Him Who gave Himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Trusting the Spirit's power, let us pray for the Church, and the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

God of hope, send out your Church to cross boundaries for the sake of Your holy compassion. Use our words and our actions to bring peace and wholeness to all people.

Lord, in Your mercy,

C. 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,

C. 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,

C. 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 Emily, Angie, Shirlee, Bill & Karen, Gail, Sherry and Carol. Surround them with Your unwavering presence. Strengthen and renew us with Your Spirit. Lord, in Your mercy,
C. hear our prayer.

We pray for our congregation 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,
C. hear our prayer.

We give thanks for the faithful ancestors in every age whose lives have pointed us towards You. Envelop them in Your love, that with Cyril, Bishop of Alexandria, and all Your saints we may be reunited with one another in the last days. Lord, in Your mercy,
C. hear our prayer.

By the sure guidance of Your Holy Spirit, O God, we lift up our prayers in trust and thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
C. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

✠ SENDING ✠

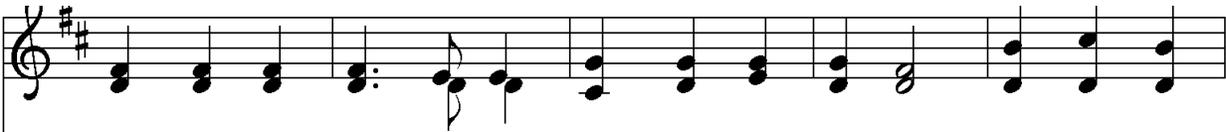
BENEDICTION

P. Jesus is the vine and we are the branches. May you be rooted and grounded in His love.
Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C. Amen

CLOSING HYMN

Great is Thy Faithfulness



1 Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther; there is no
 2 Sum-mer and win-ter and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and
 3 Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, thine own dear



shad-ow of turn-ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com-
 stars in their cours-es a-bove join with all na-ture in
 pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to-day and bright



pas-sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for-ev-er wilt be.
 man-i-fold wit-ness to thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy, and love.
 hope for to-mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!

Refrain



Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by



morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed thy



hand hath pro-vid-ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me.

DISMISSAL

P. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

RICH GIRL AND POOR WOMAN HEALED

Two stories are intertwined in Mark 5. These stories seem separate at first, but parallel each other: a little girl is dying, and a woman has been sick with hemorrhaging for twelve years. The girl is the daughter of Jairus, a synagogue leader, from a rich family with status in their community. The woman, on the other hand, is poor and has been an outcast because of her blood flow, treated like a leper.

What brings these two stories together? First, both the woman and Jairus take risks of faith. The woman risks approaching Jesus in the crowd, receives healing at a secret touch, then steps forward to identify herself in front of the whole crowd instead of sneaking away like she might have wanted to do. Jairus takes a risk by falling to his knees to beg publicly for Jesus to heal his daughter. He is a synagogue leader risking humiliation among his colleagues.

The second thing weaving the stories together is that Jesus heals both girl and woman despite their great class differences. We know that Jesus is one Who sides with the outcast, so it makes sense that the hemorrhaging woman is healed. And even though a little girl is normally not viewed as privileged, her father's wealth does not exclude her from healing. Jesus' great love reaches all of us no matter where we live, no matter the size of our home or bank account.

Worried that your faith might not be enough? Or have you called to Jesus for healing and not received it? Even when we do not receive the kind of miraculous healing we hear about in today's gospel, or the kind of healing we pray for, Jesus hears every one of our fears and is with us always. The unending power of Jesus' death and resurrection will ultimately heal us and all creation.

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Upcoming Commemorations

Sunday, June 27, 2021

Cyril, Bishop of Alexandria, died 444

Cyril defended the orthodox teachings about the person of Christ. After a conflict involving all of the major Christian leaders of the time, it was decided that Cyril's interpretation, that Christ's person included both divine and human natures, was correct.

Monday, June 28, 2021

Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons, died around 202

This important early church leader tried very hard to hold to the faith handed down by the apostles. An opponent of the movement known as gnosticism, Irenaeus was one of the first to speak of the church as catholic, or linked together.

Tuesday, June 29, 2021

Peter and Paul, Apostles

These two strong-willed apostles are the pillars of the church in the first generation after Christ. Peter was one of the Twelve, one who both offered a glorious confession of faith and later denied knowing Jesus. Paul once led the persecution of Christians, then was converted and helped bring the faith to non-Jewish people.

Thursday, July 1, 2021

Catherine Winkworth, died 1878; John Mason Neale, died 1866; hymn translators

Neale was an English priest who specialized in the translation of Latin and Greek hymns into English. Winkworth lived in Manchester, England, and devoted herself to translating German hymns. Almost all English-speaking hymnals include many of their translations.

Saturday, July 3, 2021

Thomas, Apostle

Though frequently remembered as "doubting Thomas," this apostle also demonstrated a willingness to suffer and die with Jesus (John 11:16), and finally claimed the risen Christ as "my Lord and my God!" By tradition, he later worked as a missionary in India. Long commemorated on December 21, Thomas's celebration is moved to July 3 in agreement with ecumenical calendars.

Acknowledgements

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