

Reading for Weekday in Ordinary Time

4th February 2025

First reading

Hebrews 12:1-4

‘Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.’

Brothers and Sisters: Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or faint-hearted. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 22(21):26b-27. 28, 30. 31-32. R cf. 27b

They shall praise you, Lord, those who seek you.

My vows I will pay before those who fear him.

The poor shall eat and shall have their fill.

They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him.

May your hearts live on for ever and ever!

All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord,

all families of the nations worship before him.

They have eaten and adore him, all who sleep in the earth;

before him shall bow all who go down to the dust.

And my soul shall live for him, my descendants serve him.

They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come,

declare his saving justice to peoples yet unborn:

‘These are the things the Lord has done.’

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 8:17

Alleluia, alleluia.

Christ took our illnesses

and bore our diseases.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Mark 5:21-43

‘Little girl, I say to you, arise.’

At that time: When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered about him, and he was beside the sea. Then came one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name, and seeing him, he fell at his feet and implored him earnestly, saying, ‘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.’ And he went with him.

And a great crowd followed him and thronged about him. And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse. She had heard the reports about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment. For she said, ‘If I touch even his garments, I will be made well.’ And immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. And Jesus, perceiving in himself that power had gone out from him, immediately

turned about in the crowd and said, 'Who touched my garments?' And his disciples said to him, 'You see the crowd pressing around you, and yet you say, "Who touched me?"' And he looked round to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling and fell down before him and told him the whole truth. And he said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.'

While he was still speaking, there came from the ruler's house some who said, 'Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?' But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, 'Do not fear, only believe.' And he allowed no one to follow him except Peter and James and John the brother of James. They came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and Jesus saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. And when he had entered, he said to them, 'Why are you making a commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but sleeping.' And they laughed at him. But 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. Taking her by the hand he said to her, 'Talitha cumi', which means, 'Little girl, I say to you, arise.' And immediately the girl got up and began walking, for she was twelve years of age, and they were immediately overcome with amazement. And he strictly charged them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

Short reflection on the reading for today

Two people sought help from Jesus. One was a synagogue official named Jairus, a distinguished man who publicly approached Jesus on behalf of his dying daughter. The other was a nameless woman who was barred from the synagogue because of her condition and who approached Jesus privately on her own behalf, barely touching the hem of his garment. These two people had something in common. Their need was great, and they approached Jesus in their need. They both trusted in the power of Jesus to bring life and healing.

Trust in the Lord can unite people who otherwise might have very little else in common. The Gospel also suggests that the Lord wants to engage with each of us in our uniqueness. He wants a personal relationship with each of us. That is why he asked about the woman who touched the hem of his cloak. He needed to look into her eyes, to talk to her, to affirm the faith that led her to him. The woman who wanted to be anonymous found herself called "my daughter." The Lord calls each of us by name; he relates to us as the unique individuals that we are.