

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

All peoples, clap your hands.
Cry to God with shouts of joy!

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world, have
mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world, receive our
prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT

O God, who through the grace of adoption
chose us to be children of light,
grant, we pray,
that we may not be wrapped in the darkness
of error
but always be seen to stand in the bright light
of truth.

FIRST READING

Ws 1:13-15;2:23-24

A reading from the book of Wisdom.
Death was not God's doing,
he takes no pleasure in the extinction of the
living.
To be - for this he created all;
the world's created things have health in them,
in them no fatal poison can be found,
and Hades holds no power on earth;
for virtue is undying.
Yet God did make man imperishable,
he made him in the image of his own nature;
it was the devil's envy that brought death into
the world,
as those who are his partners will discover.
The word of the Lord.

RESP. PSALM

Ps 29:2-4.6.11-13

Response:

I will praise you, Lord, you have rescued me.

1. I will praise you, Lord, you have rescued
me
and have not let my enemies rejoice over
me.
O Lord, you have raised my soul from the
dead,
restored me to life from those who sink
into the grave. (R.)
2. Sing psalms to the Lord, you who love
him,
give thanks to his holy name.
His anger lasts but a moment; his favour
through life.
At night there are tears, but joy comes
with dawn. (R.)
3. The Lord listened and had pity.
The Lord came to my help.
For me you have changed my mourning
into dancing.
O Lord My God, I will thank you for ever.
(R.)

SECOND READING

2 Cor 8:7.9.13-15

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to
the Corinthians.

You always have the most of everything - of
faith, of eloquence, of understanding, of
keenness for any cause, and the biggest
share of our affection - so we expect you to
put the most into this work of mercy too.
Remember how generous the Lord Jesus
was; he was rich, but he became poor
for your sake, to make you rich out of his
poverty. This does not mean that to give
relief to others you ought to make things
difficult for yourselves: it is a question of
balancing what happens to be your surplus
now against their present need, and one day
they may have something to spare that will
supply your own need. That is how we strike
a balance: as scripture says: The man who
gathered much had none too much, the man
who gathered little did not go short.
The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Your words are spirit, Lord,
and they are life:
you have the message of eternal life.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mk 5:21-43

For shorter form read between > <

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Mark.

>When Jesus had crossed in the boat to the
other side, a large crowd gathered
round him and he stayed by the lakeside.
Then one of the synagogue officials
came up, Jairus by name, and seeing him,
fell at his feet and pleaded with
him earnestly, saying, "My little daughter is
desperately sick. Do come and
lay your hands on her to make her better and
save her life." Jesus went with
him and a large crowd followed him; they
were pressing all round him.<

Now there was a woman who had suffered
from a haemorrhage for twelve years;
after long and painful treatment under
various doctors, she had spent all she had
without being any the better for it, in fact,
she was getting worse. She had heard about
Jesus, and she came up behind him through
the crowd and touched his cloak. "If I can
touch even his clothes," she had told herself
"I shall be well again." And the source of
the bleeding dried up instantly, and she felt in
herself that she was cured of her complaint.
Immediately aware that power had gone out
from him Jesus turned round in the crowd
and said, "Who touched my clothes?" His
disciples said to him, "You see how the
crowd is pressing round you and yet you
say, 'Who touched me?'" But he continued
to look all round to see who had done it.
Then the woman came forward, frightened
and trembling because she knew what had
happened to her, and she fell at his feet and
told him the whole truth. "My daughter"
he said "your faith has restored you to
health; go in peace and be free from your
complaint."

>While he was still speaking some people
arrived from the house of the synagogue
official to say, "Your daughter is dead: why
put the Master to any further trouble?" But
Jesus had overheard this remark of theirs
and he said to the official, "Do not be afraid;

only have faith." And he allowed no one to
go with him except Peter and James and
John the brother of James. So they came
to the official's house and Jesus noticed all
the commotion, with people weeping and
wailing unrestrainedly. He went in and said to
them, "Why all this commotion and crying?
The child is not dead, but asleep." But they
laughed at him so he turned them all out and,
taking with him the child's father and mother
and his own companions, he went into the
place where the child lay. And taking the child
by the hand he said to her, "Talitha, kum!"
which means, "Little girl, I tell you to get up."
The little girl got up at once and began to
walk about, for she was twelve years old. At
this they were overcome with astonishment,
and he ordered them strictly not to let anyone
know about it, and told them to give her
something to eat.

The Gospel of the Lord.<

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.

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

He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins

and I look forward to the resurrection of the
dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O God, who graciously accomplish
the effects of your mysteries,
grant, we pray,
that the deeds by which we serve you
may be worthy of these sacred gifts.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all within me, his holy name.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May this divine sacrifice we have offered and
received
fill us with life, O Lord, we pray,
so that, bound to you in lasting charity,
we may bear fruit that lasts for ever.



JESUS THE HEALER

MARK 5:21-43

The full form of today's Gospel contains two miracle stories. Telling one story within another is a common technique of St Mark. It is not that Mark is a careless writer or easily distracted. He often tells a story within a story to make a serious point of theology.

These two stories are straightforward. A synagogue official, a leading member of the local religious hierarchy, asks Jesus to come and cure his twelve-year old daughter. While they are on their way to the house, an older woman who has been suffering from an embarrassing disease, secretly touches Jesus' cloak in the hope that it will convey his healing power to her.

The woman's illness is described as a haemorrhage that has lasted for twelve years. According to Jewish law, she would have been ritually unclean for all that time. There were certain things she could not do such as sharing a meal with her husband or sitting on the same couch with him. She has spent a fortune in search of a cure but to no avail. She probably felt her condition was too embarrassing even to describe to a holy man like Jesus. Despite the crowd, Jesus realises that someone was trying to touch him. Healing is always a moment of personal encounter and so Jesus praises the woman's faith.

The story of the healing of the girl recommences. The delay means that the girl's condition has worsened. Even when news comes that she is dead Jesus insists on continuing to the house. Here there are even more obvious signs of death and the funeral rituals have already begun. Allowing only his three closest disciples and the girl's parents to accompany him, he goes to the death-bed, takes her by the hand and speaks a few words to her. She wakes as if from sleep and Jesus confides her to her parents. The Gospel has preserved the original words of Jesus in his native language, Aramaic: Taltitha koum. Talitha is an affectionate term for a child that really means something like 'little lamb.' It is a lovely instance of Jesus' gentleness in dealing with children, like the homely request to get her something to eat. ■

REFLECT

The woman in today's gospel story is embarrassed by her illness. Many people have to live with disabilities that are long term and embarrassing but may not be immediately obvious. It might be an illness. It might be a handicap of some kind. It could be nervous trouble, a fear or insecurity or a limited ability to read or write.

The sufferer can often put a lot of energy into covering up so that no one notices. That can be exhausting and it can even bring its own special pain, the fear of being found out. This was probably not the first time the woman in the gospel story had tried to cover up her problem. Yet Jesus' discovery of her condition is a moment of freedom. She no longer has to pretend. She is cured. ■

SAY

"Govern everything by your wisdom, O Lord, so that my soul may always be serving you in the way you wish and not as I choose. Let me die to myself so that I may serve you; let me live to you who are life itself."
[St Teresa of Avila]

DO

Take time this week to visit someone who is housebound.

PRAY

During this week pray especially for people who, despite long term illness or disability, try to get on with daily life.

LEARN

Every healing story in the Gospel is a moment of encounter, a meeting with Jesus the healer.

Jesus' healing work continues through health professionals who recognise that by their vocation they share the work of Jesus the healer.

The Church's investment in medical work continues the healing work of Christ especially in the developing world.