



CELEBRATING AT HOME
13TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Being healing and life for each other (Mk 5:21-24, 35-43)



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Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord is here, present among us.

**We are gathered with the whole Church
in this moment of prayer.**

Preparing to hear the Word

Lord Jesus,
**create in us silence so that we may listen to
your voice in Creation and in the Scriptures, in
events and in people, above all in the poor and
suffering.**

**May your word guide us so that we may
experience the power of your resurrection and
witness to others that you are alive in our midst
as source of fraternity, justice, and peace. Amen.**

Scripture Reading (Mark 5:21-24, 35-43)

When Jesus had crossed in the boat to the other side, a large crowd gathered around 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 around him.

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.

Reflection - *Being healing and life for each other*

In the longer version of this Sunday's gospel (Mk 5:21-43) Mark presents two stories of healing and restoration worked by Jesus for two women. One is a mature woman suffering from a haemorrhage for a long time, and the other is a young girl who has just died.

Over the last few Sundays Mark has been showing us the reign of God's grace (the Kingdom of God) at work in the person of Jesus. In the calming of the storm Mark has already insisted that it is necessary to have faith in Jesus in order to enter into the Kingdom.

Faith is about entering into relationship with Jesus. It is not the work of the mind but of the heart.

With an honesty born out of desperation Jairus and the woman seek out Jesus and begin their relationship with him. Jesus responds to both, and the dialogue between them grows. Even death is not an obstacle to the kindness of God. Jesus is God's healing for death itself (the Way to eternal life).

In this passage Mark is suggesting that the way to find the healing and life we need is to enter into a faithful relationship with Jesus. In that relationship (as in all others of value) the conversation is not

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one-way – it is a loving dialogue between two hearts.

Faith in Jesus – forming a relationship with him – brings about healing and restoration for us as God's beloved sons and daughters. We are restored to our rightful place in God's kingdom. Two women once considered unclean because of blood and death are now healed and restored to their rightful places in their families, communities and religious practices.

Another reason why Mark tells this story is because of the problem between the Jewish and Gentile converts in his community. Some Jewish Christians who continued to hold fast to ideas about what made people clean or unclean in the sight of God could hardly bear to worship alongside pagans whom they considered unclean. This story showed them that Jesus wasn't concerned about the women being ritually unclean and that the kindness of God was meant for all.

Through the healing and life we receive in our relationship with Jesus we can become a source of healing and life for those around us.

Prayers of Intercession

Continue to strengthen us by your Holy Spirit,
so that in the midst of difficulty, pain and suffering we can still be strong witnesses of your love.

Throw your mantle over us,
so that we may faithfully carry on your work of justice and peace.

Broaden our vision and our hope,
**preserve us from selfishness,
help us to serve one another in freedom.**

Lord's Prayer

Formed by the teaching and example of Jesus, we pray:

**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.**

Closing Prayer

Loving God,
may the vitality and passion of your Spirit
permeate and empower our lives.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Blessing

May the Lord bless us,
keep us from all evil,
and lead us to life everlasting.
Amen.

A photograph showing several hands in white robes holding a single lit yellow candle. The scene is dimly lit, with the candle's flame providing the primary light source, creating a warm and solemn atmosphere. The hands are positioned in a way that suggests a shared act of prayer or a communal offering.

Light and Love in the darkness

This resource is presented by the Carmelites of Australia & Timor-Leste at a time when we cannot gather together as we usually do to celebrate the Eucharist. We are conscious that Christ is present not only in the Blessed Sacrament but also in the Scriptures and in our hearts. Even when we are on our own we remain part of the Body of Christ.

In the room you decide to use for this prayer you could have a lighted candle, a crucifix and the Bible. These symbols help keep us mindful of the sacredness of our time of prayer and can help us feel connected with our local worshipping communities.

This text is arranged with parts for a leader and for all to pray, but the leader's parts can be shared among those present.

As you use this prayer know that the Carmelites will be remembering in our prayer all the members of our family at this time.



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