

# CHRIST CHURCH SMALL GROUPS

## Lectionary Readings for the Weekend of June 2, 2024 – The Second Sunday after Pentecost, Year B



**Instruction:** Small Groups are encouraged to read each text and use the discussion questions for further conversation and growth.

### The Collect

O God, your never-failing providence sets in order all things both in heaven and earth: Put away from us, we entreat you, all hurtful things, and give us those things which are profitable for us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### The First Reading | Deuteronomy 5:12-15

Observe the sabbath day and keep it holy, as the Lord your God commanded you. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, or your son or your daughter, or your male or female slave, or your ox or your donkey, or any of your livestock, or the resident alien in your towns, so that your male and female slave may rest as well as you. Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm; therefore the Lord your God commanded you to keep the sabbath day.

### The Psalm | Psalm 81:1-10

- <sup>1</sup> Sing with joy to God our strength and raise a loud shout to the God of Jacob.
- <sup>2</sup> Raise a song and sound the timbrel, the merry harp, and the lyre.
- <sup>3</sup> Blow the ram's-horn at the new moon, and at the full moon, the day of our feast.
- <sup>4</sup> For this is a statute for Israel, a law of the God of Jacob.
- <sup>5</sup> He laid it as a solemn charge upon Joseph, when he came out of the land of Egypt.
- <sup>6</sup> I heard an unfamiliar voice saying,  
"I eased his shoulder from the burden; his hands were set free from bearing the load."
- <sup>7</sup> You called on me in trouble, and I saved you;  
I answered you from the secret place of thunder and tested you at the waters of Meribah.
- <sup>8</sup> Hear, O my people, and I will admonish you: O Israel, if you would but listen to me!
- <sup>9</sup> There shall be no strange god among you; you shall not worship a foreign god.
- <sup>10</sup> I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and said,  
"Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it."

### The Second Reading | 2 Corinthians 4:5-12

We do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

## The Gospel | Mark 2:23—3:6

One sabbath Jesus and his disciples were going through the grainfields; and as they made their way his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. The Pharisees said to him, “Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?” And he said to them, “Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need of food? He entered the house of God, when Abiathar was high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and he gave some to his companions.” Then he said to them, “The sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the sabbath; so the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath.” Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there who had a withered hand. They watched him to see whether he would cure him on the sabbath, so that they might accuse him. And he said to the man who had the withered hand, “Come forward.” Then he said to them, “Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to kill?” But they were silent. He looked around at them with anger; he was grieved at their hardness of heart and said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. The Pharisees went out and immediately conspired with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

### Discuss:

1. **The Collect:** We pray to God whose “never-failing providence sets in order all things both in heaven and earth.” Is it hard for us to know and trust deep in our bones that God “sets in order all things?” Are our accomplishments of our own doing, or are we simply contributors to the good works God has set in motion? How can we better trust in God and the plans God has in store for us?
2. **The First Reading:** Our reading here is an exposition on the commandment to honor the Sabbath day of rest and to keep it holy. How is your ability to keep a Sabbath day of rest? Is this day Saturday or Sunday in our contemporary western Christian life? What is one way you can better follow this commandment this week?
3. **The Second Reading:** What a beautiful line of scripture: “we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.” What does this mean—that the treasure of God’s glory in Jesus Christ belongs to us in clay jars? Does that mean we need to hold it tight to ourselves? Is it something we can be carefree with? From the New Interpreter’s Bible: “So grand a treasure borne in such a menial, frail, seemingly inept container makes it unmistakable that the power enabling the whole enterprise is from God and not from us.” We carry this so others may know the life of Jesus in our body (verse 10). What is one way we can share God’s glory today?
4. **The Gospel:** Jesus defends his disciples as they gather grain and heals a disfigured man on the Sabbath. These actions seem to contradict God’s Sabbath commandment we just read in Deuteronomy. Jesus, however, counters any notion of incongruity when he says, “the Son of Man is Lord on the Sabbath.” What does this mean to you? Does this change how we should view our Sabbath responsibilities? Or are these stories less about what we can do on the Sabbath and more about Jesus’ authority as the Word to interpret scripture and reject prior religious tradition? How does Jesus’ presence (defending his disciples, healing the disfigured) show us the nearness of the kingdom?

## CHRIST CHURCH SMALL GROUPS

Lectionary Readings for the Weekend of June 9, 2024 – The Third Sunday after Pentecost, Year B



**Instruction:** Small Groups are encouraged to read each text and use the discussion questions for further conversation and growth.

### The Collect

O God, from whom all good proceeds: Grant that by your inspiration we may think those things that are right, and by your merciful guiding may do them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### The First Reading | Genesis 3:8-15

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, “Where are you?” He said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.” He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.” Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent tricked me, and I ate.” The Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.”

### The Psalm | Psalm 130

- <sup>1</sup> Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice;  
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.
- <sup>2</sup> If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss, O Lord, who could stand?
- <sup>3</sup> For there is forgiveness with you; therefore you shall be feared.
- <sup>4</sup> I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him; in his word is my hope.
- <sup>5</sup> My soul waits for the Lord, more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.
- <sup>6</sup> O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy;
- <sup>7</sup> With him there is plenteous redemption, and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

### The Second Reading | 2 Corinthians 4:13—5:1

Just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—“I believed, and so I spoke”—we also believe, and so we speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal. For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

## The Gospel | Mark 3:20-35

The crowd came together again, so that Jesus and his disciples could not even eat. When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, “He has gone out of his mind.” And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, “He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.” And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, “How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. But no one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered. Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin”—for they had said, “He has an unclean spirit.” Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, “Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.” And he replied, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” And looking at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”

### Discuss:

1. **The Collect:** “Grant that by your inspiration we may think those things that are right, and by your merciful guiding may do them.” There is sometimes a disconnect between what we think is right and actually doing that thing. How can we be better in tune with what God wants us to do? How do we make sure we are always doing the next best thing?
2. **The First Reading:** This is the first experience of human shame. Adam and Eve hide themselves from God, knowing they did wrong. Why are humans afraid of shame? Can anything good come from shame? What is the difference between shame and guilt?
3. **The Second Reading:** Believing is tied to speaking. Do you like to speak about your faith? Or does speaking about your faith make you uneasy? What, if anything, does Jesus want us to share with the world?
4. **The Gospel:** What does Jesus mean when he recasts what it means to be his family, his mother, brother, and sister? Is this a new sort of family in his name? What’s it like being a part of a church family? Do you experience joy and frustration?

## CHRIST CHURCH SMALL GROUPS

### Lectionary Readings for the Weekend of June 16, 2024 – The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, Year B



**Instruction:** Small Groups are encouraged to read each text and use the discussion questions for further conversation and growth.

#### The Collect

Keep, O Lord, your household the Church in your steadfast faith and love, that through your grace we may proclaim your truth with boldness, and minister your justice with compassion; for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

#### The First Reading | Ezekiel 17:22-24

Thus says the Lord God: I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind. All the trees of the field shall know that I am the Lord. I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. I the Lord have spoken; I will accomplish it.

#### The Psalm | Psalm 92:1-4, 11-14

- <sup>1</sup> It is a good thing to give thanks to the Lord, and to sing praises to your Name, O Most High;
- <sup>2</sup> To tell of your loving-kindness early in the morning and of your faithfulness in the night season;
- <sup>3</sup> On the psaltery, and on the lyre, and to the melody of the harp.
- <sup>4</sup> For you have made me glad by your acts, O Lord; and I shout for joy because of the works of your hands.
- <sup>11</sup> The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.
- <sup>12</sup> Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God;
- <sup>13</sup> They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be green and succulent;
- <sup>14</sup> That they may show how upright the Lord is, my Rock, in whom there is no fault.

#### The Second Reading | 2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17

We are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil. For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

#### The Gospel | Mark 4:26-34

Jesus said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the

stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.” He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.” With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

**Discuss:**

1. **The Collect:** How is the church like a household? Do we behave like brothers and sisters? What is one way Christ Church proclaims God’s truth with boldness and ministers justice with compassion?
2. **The First Reading:** The prophet Ezekiel likens Israel’s new life to a sprig that, when planted, becomes a mighty tree for all birds and creatures to dwell in. What kind of tree is God like? Oak? Redwood? How does God provide for the needs of creation like a tree provides for the creatures that need it?
3. **The Second Reading:** What does it mean to walk by faith and not by sight? What is a time in your life that you walked by faith and not sight—perhaps a time when all signs pointed to one way or direction and you took a leap of faith and went the other way. Where is God in these moments?
4. **The Gospel:** Do you find it easy to understand Jesus’ parable teachings? One definition of the prefix “para” is “resemble.” Parables often resemble something in ancient life; they also often resemble the kingdom of God. They are Jesus’ preferred mode for teaching about the nearness of God’s kingdom: it is so near that much of our everyday life resembles it. Try to make your own parable: “The Kingdom of God is like\_\_\_\_\_.” What can you come up with?

## CHRIST CHURCH SMALL GROUPS

### Lectionary Readings for the Weekend of June 23, 2024 – The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, Year B



**Instruction:** Small Groups are encouraged to read each text and use the discussion questions for further conversation and growth.

#### The Collect

O Lord, make us have perpetual love and reverence for your holy Name, for you never fail to help and govern those whom you have set upon the sure foundation of your loving-kindness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

#### The First Reading | Job 38:1-11

The Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind: “Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Gird up your loins like a man, I will question you, and you shall declare to me. Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone when the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy? Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb?—when I made the clouds its garment, and thick darkness its swaddling band, and prescribed bounds for it, and set bars and doors, and said, “Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stopped?”

#### The Psalm | Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32

- <sup>1</sup> Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, and his mercy endures for ever.
- <sup>2</sup> Let all those whom the Lord has redeemed proclaim that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.
- <sup>3</sup> He gathered them out of the lands; from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.
- <sup>23</sup> Some went down to the sea in ships and plied their trade in deep waters;
- <sup>24</sup> They beheld the works of the Lord and his wonders in the deep.
- <sup>25</sup> Then he spoke, and a stormy wind arose, which tossed high the waves of the sea.
- <sup>26</sup> They mounted up to the heavens and fell back to the depths; their hearts melted because of their peril.
- <sup>27</sup> They reeled and staggered like drunkards and were at their wits' end.
- <sup>28</sup> Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress.
- <sup>29</sup> He stilled the storm to a whisper and quieted the waves of the sea.
- <sup>30</sup> Then were they glad because of the calm, and he brought them to the harbor they were bound for.
- <sup>31</sup> Let them give thanks to the Lord for his mercy and the wonders he does for his children.
- <sup>32</sup> Let them exalt him in the congregation of the people and praise him in the council of the elders.

#### The Second Reading | 2 Corinthians 6:1-13

As we work together with Christ, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, “At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.” See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the

weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything. We have spoken frankly to you Corinthians; our heart is wide open to you. There is no restriction in our affections, but only in yours. In return—I speak as to children—open wide your hearts also.

### **The Gospel | Mark 4:35-41**

When evening had come, Jesus said to his disciples, “Let us go across to the other side.” And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?” And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

### **Discuss:**

1. **The Collect:** Do you have perpetual love for God? Certainly, we do feel love for God, but is it perpetual? Is that what we should strive for? What practices will help us get there?
2. **The First Reading:** In this scripture passage, God finally responds to Job after nearly 37 chapters of laments over suffering and the loss of his loved ones and possessions. This passage is God’s first response to Job. What is God’s temperament in this passage? What does God say about God’s self in this passage? How can it help us better relate to God?
3. **The Second Reading:** Here is one of Paul’s most poetic and rhetorically powerful scripture texts. He commends the Corinthians and all Christians for their endurance through difficult times and the duality of Christian life in the first century: as dying but having much life, as having nothing, but possessing everything. Do you ever feel those contradictions in your life as a Christian? As poor but feeling rich? How have you commended yourself to God? What sacrifices have you made to live a Christian life?
4. **The Gospel:** Have you ever had an experience like the disciples that when you needed God the most, it felt like God was absent? In retrospect, how was God actually present in that time? Should we be asking God for help in troubling times or relying on our faith that God is present and will make all things well? How do you pray to God in times of need?



## CHRIST CHURCH SMALL GROUPS

### Lectionary Readings for the Weekend of June 30, 2024 – The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost, Year B



**Instruction:** Small Groups are encouraged to read each text and use the discussion questions for further conversation and growth.

#### The Collect

Almighty God, you have built your Church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone: Grant us so to be joined together in unity of spirit by their teaching, that we may be made a holy temple acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

#### The First Reading | Wisdom of Solomon 1:13-15; 2:23-24

God did not make death, and he does not delight in the death of the living. For he created all things so that they might exist; the generative forces of the world are wholesome, and there is no destructive poison in them, and the dominion of Hades is not on earth. For righteousness is immortal. God created us for incorruption, and made us in the image of his own eternity, but through the devil's envy death entered the world, and those who belong to his company experience it.

#### The Psalm | Psalm 30

- <sup>1</sup> I will exalt you, O Lord, because you have lifted me up and have not let my enemies triumph over me.
- <sup>2</sup> O Lord my God, I cried out to you, and you restored me to health.
- <sup>3</sup> You brought me up, O Lord, from the dead; you restored my life as I was going down to the grave.
- <sup>4</sup> Sing to the Lord, you servants of his; give thanks for the remembrance of his holiness.
- <sup>5</sup> For his wrath endures but the twinkling of an eye, his favor for a lifetime.
- <sup>6</sup> Weeping may spend the night, but joy comes in the morning.
- <sup>7</sup> While I felt secure, I said, "I shall never be disturbed.  
You, Lord, with your favor, made me as strong as the mountains."
- <sup>8</sup> Then you hid your face, and I was filled with fear.
- <sup>9</sup> I cried to you, O Lord; I pleaded with the Lord, saying,
- <sup>10</sup> "What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the Pit? will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?"
- <sup>11</sup> Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon me; O Lord, be my helper."
- <sup>12</sup> You have turned my wailing into dancing; you have put off my sack-cloth and clothed me with joy.
- <sup>13</sup> Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing; O Lord my God, I will give you thanks for ever.

#### The Second Reading | 2 Corinthians 8:7-15

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. I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others. For 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. And 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—now finish doing it, so that your eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your means. For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have. I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a

fair balance. As it is written, “The one who had much did not have too much, and the one who had little did not have too little.”

### **The Gospel | Mark 5:21-43**

When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the sea. Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet 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.” So he went with him. And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she said, “If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.” Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, “Who touched my clothes?” And his disciples said to him, “You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, ‘Who touched me?’” He looked all around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. 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, some people came from the leader’s house to say, “Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?” But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, “Do not fear, only believe.” He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. When he had entered, he said to them, “Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping.” 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. He took her by the hand and said to her, “Talitha cum,” which means, “Little girl, get up!” And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

### **Discuss:**

1. **The Collect:** There are some incredible claims and asks in this Collect. Is Jesus Christ the cornerstone of your life? What practices could help us make him our cornerstone? And how do we become a holy temple and make our life a tribute to God?
2. **The First Reading:** The Book of Wisdom tells us that God created all things to live—then why is death a part of our experience? What is your relationship with death like now in this stage of your life? How do you make peace with death?
3. **The Second Reading:** Paul writes here about wealth inequality. One of the reasons for the division in the Corinthian community is that there are many who have much and act differently toward those who have little. What is Paul’s solution? How are we addressing similar issues in our society today?
4. **The Gospel:** We have here one of the most beloved stories of Jesus’ healings in the gospels. So much is happening! Jesus’ presence is first requested by Jairus, a synagogue leader, to heal his daughter. On the way to Jairus’ home, a woman suffering from hemorrhages seeks Jesus’ healing powers. In both examples, Jesus’ healing power comes from touch; the woman touches his cloak and is healed, and Jesus takes the little girl by the hand. How important is touch in the human experience? When we couldn’t touch (COVID), how was this a detriment to our healing? When you go to the hospital to visit someone, are you afraid to touch them or is touch something that you seek? How can we “touch” Jesus today?