

**Sunday, June 28, 2009**

**Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Wisdom 1:13-15, 2:23-24; Psalm 30; 2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15; Mark 5: 21-43

“God did not make death,” proclaims the first Word of the Lord to us today. God created us for “incorruption,” the author continues. When the Word became flesh, he showed in a most tangible way how God heals the sick and raises the dead. Hopefully, your presider will read the whole gospel for today, not the shortened form. A woman who suffered an issue of blood for 12 years interrupts Jesus’ going with Jairus to heal his daughter. Jesus breaks the law passively, when an “unclean” woman touches him, and actively, when he touches Jairus’ child. For this they will kill him. He is, teaches Paul, so generous. “Though he was rich, for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich.”

“Who touched me?” Jesus asks. When have you touched Jesus? What happened? When have you personally experienced Jesus’ generosity? How has his being ever so human enriched your life and spirituality, your relationship with God? How will you respond?

“Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning... You have turned our mourning to dancing.” (Ps 30). Yes, you have! Please let all the grieving people of our world know that, know you.

**Monday, June 29, 2009**

**Feast of Peter and Paul, apostles**

Acts 12: 1-11; Psalm 34; 2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 17-18; Matthew 16: 13-19

Our first two readings tell of the rescue of Peter from prison and Paul “from every evil attack.” The gospel narrates Jesus’ question to his friends and to us: “Who do you say that I am?” Saving, remember, does not mean rescue, but being set free. Peter was rescued, literally, but Paul was left to his attackers so often, according to Acts. The psalm’s antiphon resolves the apparent conflict: “God set me free from all my fears.” The psalmist continues: “Look to God and be radiant.”

Who is Jesus for you now? When you keep your eyes fixed on Jesus, what happens to your fears? Ask the Spirit to remind you of some times when you were radiant. Listen. Wait. What makes you radiant? Ask for the gift of radiant peace and joy.

You are the light of the world, Jesus, and you chose us to be your light in our world, as really as you called Peter and Paul apostles. Let our experience of you deepen. Send us.

**Tuesday, June 30, 2009**

Genesis 18: 16-33; Psalm 103; Matthew 8: 18-22

In our first reading we have an example of how to pray. God wants to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah because of their wickedness, and Abraham pleads for them. And won't stop pleading! Finally Abraham says: "O do not let the Lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten [righteous] people are found there." God agrees. The psalm response includes a refrain often repeated in the psalms and prophets, first given to Moses in the desert: "The Lord, the Lord, a God kind and compassionate, slow to anger and a bounding in mercy." (Exodus 34: 6).

Do you ever pray like Abraham, "Do not be angry if I speak..."? When and why do you get angry? When and why do you think God gets angry? How does the possibility of God's anger make you feel? Discuss this with Jesus. Be sure to listen.

Set us free, we beg you, Jesus, from any fear of God lurking in our hearts. We look to you that our faces may not blush with shame. Send us to hand on the good news of God's abundant and faithful mercy.