

**Gospel:** Hear words of faith from the Gospel of Matthew 9: 9-13, 18-26

As Jesus was leaving, he saw a tax collector named Matthew sitting at the tax-collection station. Jesus said to him, "Follow me." Matthew got up and went with him.

Later, Jesus and his disciples were having dinner at Matthew's house. Many tax collectors and other sinners were also there. Some Pharisees asked Jesus' disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and other sinners?"

Jesus heard them and answered, "Healthy people don't need a doctor, but sick people do.

Go and learn what the Scriptures mean when they say, 'Instead of offering sacrifices to me, I want you to be merciful to others.' I didn't come to invite good people to be my followers. I came to invite sinners."

While Jesus was still speaking, an official came and knelt in front of him. The man said, "My daughter has just now died! Please come and place your hand on her. Then she will live again."

Jesus and his disciples got up and went with the man.

A woman who had been suffering a flow of blood for twelve years came up behind Jesus and touched the fringe of his cloak. She'd said to herself, "If I can just touch his cloak, I will be healed."

Jesus turned. He saw the woman and said, "Take heart, you are now healed because of your faith." At that moment she was healed.

When Jesus went into the home of the official and saw the musicians and the crowd of mourners making a commotion, he said, "Go away, for the little girl isn't dead but sleeping." Everyone started laughing at Jesus.

But after the crowd had been sent out of the house, Jesus went to the girl's bedside. He took her by the hand and helped her up.

News about this spread all over that part of the district.

For stories that tell of the healing power of touch,

**We give thanks.**

**Contemporary Reading:** Listen for words of faith in our time in a prayer based on the faith of the woman with a haemorrhage.

'God, intimate and fearful'

From *All Desires Known* by Janet Morley

O God, intimate and fearful,  
who carried us with tenderness  
within our mother's womb;  
who appointed us to speak  
when we were yet unborn:  
touch our mouths with your truth,  
and take away our fear,  
that we may proclaim you to the nations  
and celebrate your mighty acts:

**let the whole world see and know  
that things which were cast down have been raised up  
and things which had grown old have been made new.**

Let us bless God for the women  
whose blood flowed that others might have life;  
who have suffered at the hands of their allies;  
who have refused to accept shame;  
who have demanded healing.

**Let the whole world see and know  
that things which were cast down have been raised up  
and things which had grown old have been made new.**

Let us bless God for the women  
who have boldly touched our lives;  
who have disrupted our use of power;  
who have made us see what was hidden,  
and feel in our bodies what it means to be made whole.

**Let the whole world see and know  
that things which were cast down have been raised up  
and things which had grown old have been made new.**

Let us bless God for the women  
who know what has been done to them;  
whose courage leaves them exposed;  
who, in fear and trembling and steadfast faith,  
proclaim the whole truth of salvation.

Let the whole world see and know  
that things which were cast down have been raised up  
and things which had grown old have been made new.

Jeremiah 1.1-10; Mark 5. 25-34

For the Word that was in the beginning,  
for the Word that invites and inspires us,  
for the Word embodied in us.

**We give thanks.**