Saint Thomas and Saint Thomas of the Air Church
Trinity XXIV
November 15, 2026
rmcneely+

Be of good comfort;
thy faith hath made thee whole.

With this week's Gospel, we reach the end and perhaps the climax
Of the long Trinity Season Survey of Essential Christian Doctrine.

And what an ending it is.

Two accounts dovetail together in seemingly unrelated fashion.
But are they actually related?
Is there perhaps a link that edifies and encapsulates
our Trinity Study?
All three of the Synoptic Authors (Matthew, Mark and Luke) write of these two events:
The Woman with the Issue of Blood and
the Resurrection of Jairus' Daughter.
I draw upon all three of them this morning
for the richest understanding
And meaning of that day.

Jairus'daughter was 12 years old
Her life was the same 12 years
as the woman's affliction.
12: An important number for the Jews.
12 months of the year
12 tribes of the Jews.
And for the Christians; 12 Apostles.

Two people who shared the number 12
Both female
Both seriously afflicted by disease.
Both ritually unclean, one by disease one by death.

Both were in desperation.
Both were called “Daughter”; one by Jesus the other by Jairus.
Both touched or were touched by Jesus
And given new life.

The Gospels tell us it all happened in one day
One walk. One message.

Jesus had just returned to Capernaum from the other side of the Sea of Galilee.
He was soon approached by Jairus,
an high official of the Temple.

His daughter was near death.
Jairus fell to his knees and begged Jesus to come to her.
Jairus, even though a Temple official, was also a father.
Any political or religious difference
Gave way to the dire situation of his daughter.
In the end, Jairus had faith in Jesus
Never mind the political awkwardness
Even Jairus knew and had faith that Jesus
would have compassion and save his daughter.

But on His way there,
Jesus is diverted by the touch of the woman
who suffered from hemorrhage.
We learn that she has been afflicted for 12 years.
Has spent all she had on physicians
But to no avail.
She was suffering.
Certainly physically
But as bad, she was suffering spiritually as well.
Her disease made her ‘impure” in the eyes of the Temple
And she had been banned from entering.
She was stigmatized, ostracized, shunned by all,

who were themselves afraid
That any contact or association with her
Would make them impure as well.
Her life had been shattered.
Cut off from God
Cut off from human contact
Considered "unclean"
Cut off from Human compassion.
She was used to people skirting around her to avoid contact.
Her assets drained;
She was exasperated, destitute and at an end.
She had one sole hope left: Jesus.

Perhaps out of shyness and 12 years of avoiding people,
She approached Him through the crowd from behind
And stooped down and touched the hem of his robe.
Instantly, the disease was cured . . . her life restored.

Jesus wheeled around
Out of all the people in the press of the crowd,
He looked into her eyes
Somehow, He knew her and knew what had happened
Despite no words being exchanged and out of Jesus' sight
Jesus knew that virtue had gone out of Him.
He told her;
"Daughter, be of good comfort,
Thy faith hath made thee whole".
Can we appreciate the faith it took for her to know
That she didn't need to speak
Didn't need to ask
Didn't need to face Him
Didn't need the touch of His hand
The sound of His voice.
Even her touch of His robe
Would restore her life. Such faith.

Jesus resumed His mission to the young girl in distress.
But as they rushed, he was met by Jairus' servants
With the news that He was too late,
The young girl had died.
Jairus was undaunted and pressed Jesus to continue.
His faith was so strong
That even the news of his daughter's death
Was not enough to overcome his faith in Jesus.

When He arrived, Jesus
Waived off the mourners
And as she lay lifeless,
He took the young girl's hand and said in Aramaic;
Talitha, cumi; young girl I say to thee; arise.
The young girl forever known thereafter as Talatha
Was restored to life.

The Woman with Hemorrhage and Talatha
Show us something about our lives.

Think of the woman's disease as our sins.
And the death of Jairus' daughter as our death in this life.
The two powerful forces attacking humanity; sin and death
And these accounts begin to take on meaning in our lives.

Today's Collect speaks of the "bands" of our sins.
Bands, like the metal bands that confine the staves of a barrel
The bands of sin so confine our lives.

Have there not been times in our lives when sin has overtaken us?
Under the crushing weight of them
And having done all in our power to right them,
Have we not become exasperated, destitute
At an end?

Have there not been times in our lives when we have felt isolated,
Abandoned by associates, friends or family?
Have there not been times in our lives when we faced our demise?
When by calamity or disease, we confront the possibility
Of having to leave this life?

Times when our only salvation is of God?
Of Jesus, the Christ?
Times when only the touch of His Robe or His Hand will bring us safely home?
In those times, recall the words of our Lord:

"Be of good comfort,
Thy faith hath made thee whole."

His touch, our salvation, does not always look like what we imagine.
We are beloved by Our Creator
and intimately known by Him.
Sometimes His touch comes from a friend or loved one
From one of you.
From a perfect stranger.
Sometimes His touch comes in the Sacrament of Communion
Which you are about to receive here at His altar
He touches you as you receive His Body and Blood.

And at the hour of our death
When we reach our allotted days
He will be there, standing before you
Take you by the hand,
To take you home.

And so we reach the conclusion,
the crescendo of our
Trinity Season Survey of Essential Christian Doctrine
for this Year.

We will have one final Sunday in Trinity next week
A transitional Sunday
And as we turn the corner of a new Christian Year,
As we prepare for the penitential season of Advent
And everything will change.