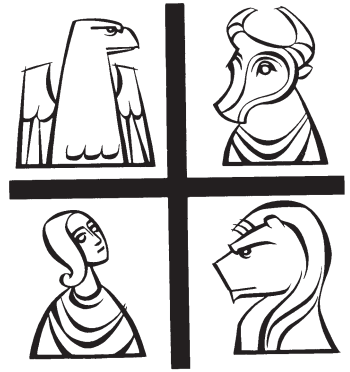


# Reading Luke in Lent

## Gospel of Luke 8:26-56



### Jesus Heals a Man with a Demon

26 Then they sailed to the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee.

27 When Jesus had stepped out on land, there met him a man from the city who had demons.

For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he had not lived in a house but among the tombs.

28 When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him and said with a loud voice, 'What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me.'

29 For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many a time it had seized him. He was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert.)

30 Jesus then asked him, 'What is your name?' And he said, 'Legion,' for many demons had entered him.

31 And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss.

32 Now a large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, and they begged him to let them enter these. So he gave them permission.

33 Then the demons came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and drowned.

34 When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country.

35 Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid.

36 And those who had seen it told them how the demon-possessed man had been healed.

37 Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned.

38 The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying,

39 'Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.' And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.

### Jesus Heals a Woman and Jairus's Daughter

40 Now when Jesus returned, the crowd welcomed him, for they were all waiting for him.

41 And there came a man named Jairus, who was a ruler of the synagogue. And falling at Jesus' feet, he implored him to come to his house, for he had an only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she was dying.

42 As Jesus went, the people pressed around him.

43 And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years,  
and though she had spent all her living on physicians, she could not be healed by anyone.  
44 She came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment,  
and immediately her discharge of blood ceased.  
45 And Jesus said,  
'Who was it that touched me?'  
When all denied it, Peter said,  
'Master, the crowds surround you and are pressing in on you!'  
46 But Jesus said,  
'Someone touched me, for I perceive that power has gone out from me.'  
47 And when the woman saw that she was not hidden,  
she came trembling, and falling down before him declared in the presence of all the people  
why she had touched him, and how she had been immediately healed.  
48 And he said to her,  
'Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace.'

49 While he was still speaking, someone from the ruler's house came and said,  
'Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the Teacher any more.'  
50 But Jesus on hearing this answered him,  
'Do not fear; only believe, and she will be well.'  
51 And when he came to the house, he allowed no one to enter with him,  
except Peter and John and James, and the father and mother of the child.  
52 And all were weeping and mourning for her, but he said,  
'Do not weep, for she is not dead but sleeping.'  
53 And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead.  
54 But taking her by the hand he called, saying,  
'Child, arise.'  
55 And her spirit returned, and she got up at once.  
And he directed that something should be given her to eat.  
56 And her parents were amazed, but he charged them to tell no one what had happened.

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## Reflection

Having calmed the storm in the last passage and showed his power over nature. Jesus now shows his power over evil, sickness and death. He and the disciples have crossed to gentile territory at the beginning of this section, hence they keep pigs. The demons, who are many, recognise Jesus and call him the 'Son of the Most High God'. The man is healed becomes the first to proclaim the Good News to the Gentiles as he tells the whole city how much Jesus has done for him.

Jesus crosses back over the lake to the welcoming crowd. Luke paints a series of parallels between Jairus and his daughter and the woman. The daughter is twelve, the woman has suffered for twelve years; addressing Jesus both the father and the woman fall to their knees. In commending the woman Jesus calls her 'daughter'. Both stories are about the power of faith and believe in the power of Jesus to heal and save.

- The image of touching Jesus' garment unseen has a certain appeal. We know Jesus has the power to help us but sometimes it is too much to articulate this in prayer and petition. When we receive his healing help it also gives us the strength to declare what he has done for us.
  - What are the parts of our lives where we seek Jesus' healing touch?

## Prayer

God of the living,  
in whose image we have been formed  
with imperishable life as our destiny,  
dispel from your people the fear of death  
and awaken within us the faith that saves.  
Bid us rise from the death of sin  
to take our place in the new creation.

We make our prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.  
Amen.

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