

**Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos "She who is Quick to Hear" of Docheiario, MT ATHOS 10C
22 November 2020**

Christ is in our midst He is and ever shall be!

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Epistle: Eph 2:14-22

For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Today's theme: HEALING! Reconciliation! Peace! (A reminder of the healing of the Gadarene in last week's Gospel account) A twofold end of separation from one another and from God! In Christ we are ONE! Orthodox Study Bible: The "middle wall of separation" – separation of Jew and Gentile in the Temple in Jerusalem – is replaced by a bridge, the Lord Jesus, proclaiming twofold unity. Old distinctions and differences are to vanish! This message goes beyond Jew and Gentile – it is universal! It is message for us, here, today! The Lord Jesus teaches us that we are not strangers and foreigners. We are now one body, "fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God"! How should we see this fellowship today? In Christ there is one family. The human family and one race – the human race! Keep in mind the two great Commandments – Love God! Love your neighbor! Paul uses the metaphor of building – the prophets and apostles are the foundation! Jesus is the cornerstone! We are also part of the building, different pieces fitting together to build a holy temple, a dwelling place of God in the spirit!

Gospel: Luke 8: 41-56

And behold, there came a man named Jairus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue. And he fell down at Jesus' feet and begged Him to come to his house, for he had an only daughter about twelve years of age, and she was dying. But as He went, the multitudes thronged Him. Now a woman, having a flow of blood for twelve years, who had spent all her livelihood on physicians and could not be healed by any, came from behind and touched the border of His garment. And immediately her flow of blood stopped. And Jesus said, "Who touched Me?" When all denied it, Peter and those with him said, "Master, the multitudes throng and press You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?'" But Jesus said, "Somebody touched Me, for I perceived power going out from Me." Now when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before Him, she declared to Him in the presence of all the people the reason she had touched Him and how she was healed immediately. And He said to her, "Daughter, be of good cheer; your faith has made you well. Go in peace." While He was still speaking, someone came from the ruler of the synagogue's house, saying to him, "Your daughter is dead. Do not trouble the Teacher." But when Jesus heard it, He answered him, saying, "Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be made well." When He came into the house, He permitted no one to go in except Peter, James, and John, and the father and mother of the girl. Now all wept and mourned for her; but He said, "Do not weep; she is not dead, but sleeping." And they ridiculed Him, knowing that she was dead. 4 But He put them all outside, took her by the hand and called, saying, "Little girl, arise." Then her spirit returned, and she arose immediately. And He commanded that she be given something to eat. And her parents were astonished, but He charged them to tell no one what had happened.

Compare with Matthew 9:18-26

Theme: HEALING! Authority over life and death is God's alone: Who is Jesus? Question answered by two accounts of healing. Jairus, ruler of the synagogue whose daughter is dying appeals to the Lord Jesus for help! On the way, however, Jesus is surrounded by a crowd of people. A woman in the crowd, ill for twelve years, touches the hem of his garment and is healed at once!

"Who touched me?" Terrified, the woman comes to Jesus, falls down before Him! She says she was sick for twelve years but now she is cured!

The woman's sickness made her untouchable but Jesus heals her and says "Daughter, be of good cheer! Your faith has made you well!" The love of Christ is for all of us!

Then, a member of the house of Jairus comes to say that Jairus 12 year daughter has died!

Is it too late? If the girl is dead, Jairus is told "Don't trouble the teacher" says the man!

Jesus' response to Jairus: "Do not be afraid; only believe and she will be made well!"

At the house of Jairus, some mourn; another laugh when Jesus says the girl is only sleeping!

At the words "Little girl, arise!", she arises – healed not only from illness but from death itself!

Through faith, two individuals experience healing and the promise of new life!

Our position is the same: In our own lives, let us cast fear and doubt aside!

As Paul writes in today's epistle, a building requires a foundation and a cornerstone. Faith is essential in healing! It provides a foundation on which to build a holy temple, in dwelling place of God in the Spirit! We are to be the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit, of the love of Christ our God!

CHRIST IS IN OUR MIDST!

HE IS AND EVER SHALL BE!

AMEN!