

First Scripture Reading
2 Corinthians 8:7-15
from the Common English Bible

⁷Be the best in this work of grace in the same way that you are the best in everything, such as faith, speech, knowledge, total commitment, and the love we inspired in you. ⁸I'm not giving an order, but by mentioning the commitment of others, I'm trying to prove the authenticity of your love also. ⁹You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Although he was rich, he became poor for your sakes, so that you could become rich through his poverty. ¹⁰I'm giving you my opinion about this. It's to your advantage to do this, since you not only started to do it last year but you wanted to do it too. ¹¹Now finish the job as well so that you finish it with as much enthusiasm as you started, given what you can afford. ¹²A gift is appreciated because of what a person can afford, not because of what that person can't afford, if it's apparent that it's done willingly. ¹³It isn't that we want others to have financial ease and you financial difficulties, but it's a matter of equality. ¹⁴At the present moment, your surplus can fill their deficit so that in the future their surplus can fill your deficit. In this way there is equality. ¹⁵As it is written, *The one who gathered more didn't have too much, and the one who gathered less didn't have too little.*

This is the word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm Reading
130
from the UMH, 848

¹Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord! ²Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

³If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?

⁴But there is forgiveness with you, that you may be worshipped.

⁵I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, in the Lord's word I hope;

⁶my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning.

⁷O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, with the Lord is plenteous redemption.

⁸And the Lord will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

Second Scripture Reading

Mark 5:21-43

from the Common English Bible

²¹Jesus crossed the lake again, and on the other side a large crowd gathered around him on the shore. ²²Jairus, one of the synagogue leaders, came forward. When he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet ²³and pleaded with him, “My daughter is about to die. Please, come and place your hands on her so that she can be healed and live.” ²⁴So Jesus went with him. A swarm of people were following Jesus, crowding in on him. ²⁵A woman was there who had been bleeding for twelve years. ²⁶She had suffered a lot under the care of many doctors, and had spent everything she had without getting any better. In fact, she had gotten worse. ²⁷Because she had heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his clothes. ²⁸She was thinking, If I can just touch his clothes, I’ll be healed. ²⁹Her bleeding stopped immediately, and she sensed in her body that her illness had been healed. ³⁰At that very moment, Jesus recognized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and said, “Who touched my clothes?” ³¹His disciples said to him, “Don’t you see the crowd pressing against you? Yet you ask, ‘Who touched me?’” ³²But Jesus looked around carefully to see who had done it. ³³The woman, full of fear and trembling, came forward. Knowing what had happened to her, she fell down in front of Jesus and told him the whole truth. ³⁴He responded, “Daughter, your faith has healed you; go in peace, healed from your disease.” ³⁵While Jesus was still speaking with her, messengers came from the synagogue leader’s house, saying to Jairus, “Your daughter has died. Why bother the teacher any longer?” ³⁶But Jesus overheard their report and said to the synagogue leader, “Don’t be afraid; just keep trusting.” ³⁷He didn’t

allow anyone to follow him except Peter, James, and John, James’ brother. ³⁸They came to the synagogue leader’s house, and he saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. ³⁹He went in and said to them, “What’s all this commotion and crying about? The child isn’t dead. She’s only sleeping.” ⁴⁰They laughed at him, but he threw them all out. Then, taking the child’s parents and his disciples with him, he went to the room where the child was. ⁴¹Taking her hand, he said to her, “*Talitha koum*,” which means, “Young woman, get up.” ⁴²Suddenly the young woman got up and began to walk around. She was 12 years old. They were shocked! ⁴³He gave them strict orders that no one should know what had happened. Then he told them to give her something to eat.