

## The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

### Matthew 8:28-9:1

And when he was come to the other side into the country of the Gergesenes, there met him two possessed with devils, coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way. And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time? And there was a good way off from them an herd of many swine feeding. So the devils besought him, saying, If thou cast us out, suffer us to go away into the herd of swine. And he said unto them, Go. And when they were come out, they went into the herd of swine: and, behold, the whole herd of swine ran violently down a steep place into the sea, and perished in the waters. And they that kept them fled, and went their ways into the city, and told everything, and what was befallen to the possessed of the devils. And, behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus: and when they saw him, they besought him that he would depart out of their coasts. And he entered into a ship, and passed over, and came into his own city. (KJV)

Believers come to God's Holy Church to participate in the Divine Liturgy for the salvation of the soul. Hunger in the soul brings believers to the Divine Liturgy. The mind, heart and soul created and given by God guides believers to the Church.

The heart, mind and soul are filled with joy in the Divine Liturgy. Believers are blessed to partake of the Precious Body and Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ in the Divine Liturgy.

The Lord Jesus Christ feeds believers through the centuries. Jesus Christ's Precious Body and Blood are never exhausted. The Lord Jesus Christ fills and fulfills the hunger in the heart, mind and soul.

The Church lives through the centuries until the glorious Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Necessary nourishment for believers continues to be available throughout the world and throughout the centuries.

Newcomers to God's Holy Church come to love the Lord Jesus Christ and embrace the way of Jesus Christ. God's love changes the hardened of heart. God's love gives peace to the tormented mind and heals the hurting soul.

The Holy Gospel enlightens the path for believers in life's dark periods. The Resurrected Christ brightens the path to follow. The Transfigured and Ascended Christ inspire believers to greater heights in life.

The present Gospel demonstrates that demons are no match for the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ has the power to dispel demons that arise in life and block passage to personal growth.

Prayer and fasting keep believers on the narrow path to the Heavenly Kingdom. When believers slip into sin, repentance enables believers to be reunited with Christ. Christ's mercy and forgiveness bring renewal to the humble and broken-hearted.

Each Divine Liturgy strengthens and renews the believer. Each reading of the Holy Gospel and partaking of the Precious Body and Blood of Christ brings unity with Christ.

Believers of all races and backgrounds, believers of all ages are enriched and welcomed by Christ. Christ's embrace spans the centuries and the world. Christ's love is beyond measure.

The present Gospel speaks about demons being fierce and blocking passage of those traveling. Jesus addressed the demons and dispelled them. Jesus opened the passageway for those coming afterwards.

During the course of daily life, believers will encounter demons that hinder movement to the next stage or goal in life. Calling upon Jesus Christ will open the pathway to personal growth.

Authentic growth comes only through Jesus Christ. Demons are only firmly, fully and finally dispelled in life by Jesus Christ. Deep personal peace is achieved only in Jesus Christ.

The world will put forth many erroneous paths to follow. The Lord Jesus Christ said: "I am **the way, the truth, and the life**: no man cometh unto **the** Father, but by me." (Jn.14:6)

Believers are required to renew the commitment to Jesus Christ throughout life. The commitment made to Jesus Christ at Holy Baptism is intended for the remaining days of life.

God's Holy Church provides the teachings, the guidance and the nourishment for believers for all the days of earthly life. The Church is mindful of believers not only during earthly life.

The Church continues to focus attention on believers departed this life. Until the Lord's glorious Second Coming, the living and departed are firmly in focus in God's Holy Church.

Each Divine Liturgy lifts the hearts, minds and souls of believers. Jesus Christ's Crucifixion and Resurrection are proof of the defeat of death and of the promise of life eternal.

The Divine Liturgy prepares believers for life eternal. The Divine Liturgy enables believers to have a foretaste of the Heavenly Kingdom. Life and death, time and space are transcended in the Divine Liturgy.

Thank God for the Divine Liturgy being available throughout the world. Thank God for the proclamation of the Holy Gospel and the opportunity to partake of Christ's Precious Body and Blood.

Attentive believers learn in God's Holy Church the ability of Christ to open desirable pathways in life. Serious believers maintain firm confidence in Christ at all stages of life.

Believers find the necessities for all of life in Jesus Christ. God's Holy Church is always open for believers to travel the path from Baptism to the Heavenly Kingdom. Joy exists throughout the journey with Christ from Baptism to departure from this life.

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Holy Martyrs Proclus and Hilary."Three Handed Icon" of the Chilandar Monastery.

Translation of the Relics of New Hieromartyr Momcilo Grgurevic of Serbia.

July 12/25, 2021. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic