

## The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

### Matthew 9:27-35

And when Jesus departed thence, two blind men followed Him, crying, and saying, Thou son of David, have mercy on us. And when He was come into the house, the blind men came to Him: and Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto Him, Yea, Lord. Then touched He their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you. And their eyes were opened; and Jesus straitly charged them, saying, See that no man know it. But they, when they were departed, spread abroad His fame in all that country. As they went out, behold, they brought to Him a dumb man possessed with a devil. And when the devil was cast out, the dumb spake: and the multitudes marvelled, saying, It was never so seen in Israel. But the Pharisees said, He casteth out devils through the prince of the devils. And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. (KJV)

Holy Fathers of the First Six Councils

### John 17:1-13

These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was. I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word. Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee. For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me. I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled. And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves. (KJV)

The Lord Jesus Christ's love is manifested in both Gospel readings for today. Believers have the opportunity to learn of this love through the Holy Gospel readings in God's Holy Church.

Coming to church is a purely voluntary act of lasting benefit to the soul. The Lord Jesus Christ talks about eternal life in St. John's Gospel for today. Eternal life is a distinct possibility for believers seeking to follow and live in Jesus Christ.

God's Holy Church offers the nourishment to learn about Christ and to grow in Christ from infancy until departure from this life. God's Holy Church offers healing for the soul and body.

Today's Gospel of St. Matthew describes Jesus' power to heal blindness and the inability to speak for those possessed by the devil. Blindness is not always physical blindness. Afflictions in speech can be spiritual afflictions.

Many individuals are spiritually blind. Spiritual blindness involves not being able to see and perceive God at work in daily life. Individuals looking elsewhere than God's Holy Church often suffer from spiritual blindness,

Individuals can find it difficult to speak about the glory of God and suffer from a certain limitation of speech due to fascination with the way of demons. Jesus Christ can release individuals inhibited by demonic control.

The soul is healed only through Jesus Christ. The soul is nourished through Jesus Christ. The Church offers Christ as nourishment. The Church offers instruction in the way of life for all of life.

Individuals change from birth to departure from this life if they are blessed to live a long natural life of many years. God's Church helps believers through the stages of life by the Holy Mysteries.

Attentiveness is required to grow in Christ and to mature from infancy to adulthood. Faithful attendance in God's Holy Church enables believers to learn about the life in Christ and the way to address problems arising in daily life.

The Lord loves each person and seeks for each person to grow and be healthy in Christ. The Precious Body and Blood of Christ are offered to believers for nourishment of soul and body at each Divine Liturgy.

The world offers many distractions and temptations which put the soul in peril. God's Holy Church offers protection from the evils of the world. God's Holy Church offers instruction how to live healthily in the world.

Learning is possible throughout life. It is only too late to learn in Christ when the mind ceases to function. Being open to Christ and learning about Christ advances the possibilities in life beyond measure.

Even at the last moments of life it is possible to repent and turn to Christ. It is always better to turn to Christ at the early stages of life and to remain in Christ throughout life.

God's love is never-ending. Repentance is always possible. Repentance is always beneficial. Embracing and loving Christ brings a way of life that results in the greatest joy.

Thank God for the Church. Thank God for the opportunity to repent. Be grateful for Christ's love and healing power. Cherish every moment of life and glorify God throughout the remaining days of life.

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