

The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 9:1-8

And he entered into a ship, and passed over, and came into his own city. And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee. And, behold, certain of the scribes said within themselves, This man blasphemeth. And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts? For whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk? But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house. And he arose, and departed to his house. But when the multitudes saw it, they marvelled, and glorified God, which had given such power unto men. (KJV)

God's Holy Church provides the Gospel reading in each Divine Liturgy for the benefit of attentive listeners. Attentive listeners take the message of the Gospel to heart and change their lives accordingly.

The present Gospel describes the Lord Jesus Christ's ability to forgive sins and to physically heal the sick. Jesus addressed both the forgiveness of sins and the healing of sickness in this Gospel reading.

Jesus told the man sick with palsy that his sins were forgiven. Jesus also told the man to arise, take up his bed and to go to his house. Jesus healed the man of his affliction. The onlookers marveled at the miracle.

Attentive listeners will find in Jesus Christ today the power to forgive sins. Believers will find in the present Gospel the healing power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The present Gospel is intended to enrich the lives of listeners. Every person is a sinner. Sins create paralysis in believers. Sins inhibit full growth in human life. Sins stymie growth in the Lord Jesus Christ.

A person's full potential is never realized until the burden of sins is removed by the Lord Jesus Christ. Sins curtail freedom of movement. Sins limit a person's ability to think clearly.

The heart, the mind and the soul are affected by sins that remain unforgiven. Today's Gospel serves as a stimulus for believers to repent, to turn to the Lord Jesus Christ and seek forgiveness.

Today's Gospel is a lesson to seek healing from Jesus Christ. Today is the day to begin leading an enriched life with greater freedom of movement. Jesus Christ will free the heart, mind and soul to move toward full potential.

Having sins forgiven creates joy in the heart, mind and soul. Having greater movement in life increases opportunities for growth. Jesus Christ is the ultimate source of freedom, peace and joy.

Jesus Christ is the ultimate purveyor of healing and embodiment of love. Jesus has the ability to heal the heart, mind and soul. When the heart is broken, when the mind is hurting and the soul is tarnished, Jesus Christ can make life better.

God's Holy Church is where to learn about the healing power of Jesus Christ. God's Holy Church is where to repent of sins and to seek forgiveness. Jesus Christ welcomes persons seeking healing and forgiveness of sins.

Jesus does not repudiate or turn away those turning to Him for forgiveness and healing. Jesus welcomes broken and contrite hearts. Jesus welcomes persons with tarnished souls and tormented minds.

Jesus can make things right in each human life. The present Gospel is proof that has lasted through the centuries. Jesus can heal ailments and forgive sins. The present Gospel is a message of hope and a message of love.

Jesus' love extends to sinners. Jesus' love reaches to the physically ailing. Jesus has the ability to restore health to the sick. When Jesus restores health to the soul, life is much different.

When Jesus heals the broken heart and brings peace to the tormented mind, life is much better. The Church is where to begin the process of healing. The Church is where to continue the life of good health and to seek full potential in life.

Turn to the Church and remain in the Church for fulness in life. Experience unity with Jesus Christ the Healer in God's Holy Church. Come to know the forgiveness of sins from Jesus Christ Who has the power to forgive.

The present Gospel is a life-changing Gospel for the attentive believer. God's Church intends for lives to be changed with each reading of the Holy Gospel. Change for the better, growth and unity with Christ are the Church's intentions.

Today is the day to set aside the sins that limit life. Today is the day to have the shackles of paralysis removed. Experience the joy that Jesus Christ offers by repenting of sins.

Holy Confession brings purity to the heart, mind and soul. Jesus' forgiveness brings wholeness to life, to the mind, heart and soul. Forgiveness is readily available in Christ and in God's Holy Church.

Value the present Gospel for the message of healing. Cherish this Gospel to make a new beginning in life. Come to know life with a greater amount of freedom created and made available by the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost. Holy-great Martyr Euphemia the All-praised; Blessed Olga, Princess of Russia. July 11/24, 2022. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania.

Father Rodney Torbic