

The Twenty Third Sunday after Pentecost
Luke 8:26-39

And they arrived at the country of the Gadarenes, which is over against Galilee. And when He went forth to land, there met Him out of the city a certain man, which had devils long time, and ware no clothes, neither abode in any house, but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out, and fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, What have I to do with Thee, Jesus, thou Son of God most high? I beseech Thee, torment me not. (For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For oftentimes it had caught him: and he was kept bound with chains and in fetters; and he brake the bands, and was driven of the devil into the wilderness.) And Jesus asked him, saying, What is thy name? And he said, Legion: because many devils were deep. And there was there an herd of many swine feeding on the mountain: and they besought him that He would suffer them to enter into them. And He suffered them. Then went the devils out of the man, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the lake, and were choked. When they that fed them saw what was done, they fled, and went and told it in the city and in the country. Then they went out to see what was done; and came to Jesus, and found the man, out of whom the devils were departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid. They also which saw it told them by what means he that was possessed of the devils was healed. Then the whole multitude of the country of the Gadarenes round about besought Him to depart from them; for they were taken with great fear: and He went up into the ship, and returned back again. Now the man out of whom the devils were departed besought Him that he might be with Him: but Jesus sent him away, saying, Return to thine own house, and shew how great things God hath done unto thee. And he went his way, and published throughout the whole city how great things Jesus had done unto him. (KJV)

The current Gospel offers written proof of the Lord Jesus Christ's ability to heal persons possessed by the devil. Jesus brought the man in the current Gospel to his right mind by expelling the devils.

The Lord Jesus Christ offers peace of mind to believers in the world today. Devils abound in the current culture and enter and affect the minds of unsuspecting persons.

Torturous thoughts can arise in individuals and destroy peace of mind. The Jesus Prayer is effective in confronting devils in daily life. Using the Jesus Prayer directly can push out of the mind thoughts that are unsettling.

Repeating the Jesus Prayer, "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner" is effective in keeping the mind right at all times. The power of Jesus Christ is second to none.

Jesus Christ's ability to keep the mind right is second to none. Believers do well to reach deep within the heart, mind and soul to center life in Jesus Christ. With Jesus Christ as the Goal, Guide and Guardian, peace of mind is possible

The Church prescribes this Gospel to be read each year to reassure believers of Christ's power over the devil. Rightness of mind is the desired state for believers in God's Holy Church.

Individuals afflicted with the devil and tormented by the devil do well to turn to Christ in the Church for peace of mind and healing. Families and friends of the tormented find refuge and strength in God's Holy Church

When Christ brings peace of mind to a person, expressions of gratitude are in order. In the present Gospel, Jesus told the man to go and tell others that he had been healed.

Believers benefitting from Jesus Christ in their lives have the opportunity to share their knowledge of Christ with others in the way they live. Jesus Christ's love for the tormented is clear in the present Gospel.

Christ's healing of the possessed man in the current Gospel is a convincing demonstration of love for the man. Communities and societies do well to demonstrate Christ's love for those possessed by the devil in their midst.

The daily news tells of possessed individuals living on the streets in homeless camps. Residential mental health facilities need adequate staffing to treat possessed patients.

Too many individuals end up in jails and prisons because they are possessed by the devil and do not have access to necessary mental health care. The love of Christ is needed to be brought into the jails, prisons and residential facilities.

Persons possessed by the devil can strike fear in the minds of onlookers. The power of Christ to expel the devils can also be unsettling. Christians familiar with this Gospel do well to share it with others in their daily lives.

Christians have a responsibility to make a difference in their communities. Making sure that adequate mental health care is available to the needy is a Christian responsibility.

The Church proclaims Jesus Christ's healing power. Parishes have a role in improving mental health for parishioners and the communities in which they are located.

Parishioners residing in mental health facilities benefit from the support and prayers of the parish. Parish priests visiting patients in mental health facilities bring Jesus Christ into the locked wards.

Parishioners working in mental health settings need the nourishment and support of the Church in the difficult and necessary work being done each day. Persons afflicted by the devil are remembered and not forgotten by Jesus Christ.

The Church offering healing to the mentally afflicted is Jesus Christ at work. Parishes do well to be sensitive to afflicted parishioners and afflicted persons in their communities. Taking action to help the afflicted is doing Christ's work.

The Twenty Third Sunday after Pentecost. November 7/20, 2022. Holy Martyr Heron and Thirty-Three Martyrs in Melitene. Venerable Lazarus of Mt. Galesius. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic