

The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 8:5-13

And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him, And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented. And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him. The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed. For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it. When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour. (KJV)

The centurion in the present Gospel was a man of authority. He had soldiers under his command who would obey his orders. The centurion recognized the Lord Jesus Christ as having higher authority.

The Lord Jesus Christ is the highest authority for Christian believers, Jesus Christ is the measurement for all that exists in life. Believers take their orders out of love and obedience from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Believers find their meaning and purpose in life in Jesus Christ. The centurion turned to Jesus Christ for the healing of his tormented servant. Jesus' word was sufficient for the centurion for his servant to be healed.

Jesus' words have healing power for the believer's heart, mind and soul. The present Gospel is to be taken to heart with faith comparable to the faith of the centurion.

Believers seeking healing for the heart, mind and soul find the answer in the present Gospel. Strong faith as the faith of the centurion is the answer for the healing required in the present life.

Jesus Christ's healing power is sufficient for the challenges believers face in their lives. Jesus' healing power is found in His words as known in the Holy Gospel proclaimed and preserved in God's Holy Church.

The Church proclaims the present Gospel each year to strengthen the believer's faith. The centurion is an example for the believer to emulate in strength of faith.

Jesus healed the centurion's servant. Jesus heals believers of strong faith every day. God's Holy Church has enumerable accounts of healings due to strong faith.

The miracles worked through icons and visits to the tombs of saints and martyrs add to the record of Divine healings. Triumphant hope emanates from the present Gospel.

Challenges arise in life when healings are necessary for the self, friends or for a loved one. The present Gospel is a clear message to place faith and confidence in Jesus' healing power.

The centurion took the initiative to approach Jesus seeking healing for his servant. Jesus welcomed the initiative. Jesus welcomes believers drawing near in faith and love.

The heart, mind and soul benefit from Jesus' healing power. The heart, mind and soul are paralyzed by sin in ways not fully known to and measurable by the believer.

Jesus offers the purification and healing necessary to free the heart, mind and soul from the limitations and afflictions created by sin. Jesus' healing power offers new mobility and freedom to the believer.

Believers healed by Christ experience the joy of new found freedom and mobility. Jesus transforms the heart, mind and soul with His healing power. Strong faith facilitates the healing taking place.

Jesus is due gratitude for the Gospel account proclaimed in the Church today. Jesus is due gratitude for the hope He personifies for all with eyes to see and faith to believe.

Jesus nourishes the hunger in the soul for healing. Jesus heals the afflictions arising from sin. Jesus healed the centurion's servant as a lasting example of strong faith.

God's Holy Church is a stronghold of faith. Believers coming to church enrich and nourish their faith. The Church transforms believers through Jesus Christ and the communities in which they are located.

Families, neighborhoods and communities are affected and benefit when believers come to church seeking healing. The healing of the centurion's servant continues to impact life in today's world.

The Church stands in the world today leading believers to the Heavenly Kingdom and offers a foretaste of the Kingdom. Jesus' healing power present in the Gospel opens the heart, mind and soul to greater possibilities.

The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost. Holy Apostle Jude, Venerable Paisius the Great, St. John of Shanghai. June 19/July 2, 2023. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic