

The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
Matthew 17:14-23

And when they were come to the multitude, there came to him a certain man, kneeling down to him, and saying, Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatick, and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water. And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him. Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me. And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour. Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting. And while they abode in Galilee, Jesus said unto them, The Son of man shall be betrayed into the hands of men: And they shall kill him, and the third day he shall be raised again. And they were exceeding sorry. (KJV)

The Gospel is proclaimed in God's Holy Church for the salvation of the soul and for the glory of God.. Attentive believers heed the Gospel in seeking the Kingdom of God and eternal life.

The Gospel is applicable to daily life and leads the believer to God's Kingdom. Heeding the Gospel brings peace to the heart, mind and soul. The Gospel unites the believer with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ's teachings are proclaimed and preserved in the Gospel. Believers learn from the Gospel about Jesus Christ's earthly ministry, the miracles He performed and His death on the Cross,

Jesus Christ's Resurrection and Ascension are verified in the Gospel. Christ's return for the final judgment is anticipated in the Gospel. Attentive believers take the Gospel to heart and apply it to daily living.

The present Gospel describes Jesus Christ's power to heal a devil afflicted son for a mercy seeking father. Parents with afflicted sons and daughters find hope in the present Gospel.

All believers are afflicted by the devil to a certain degree during earthly life. The present Gospel teaches that through prayer and fasting with Christ's help the devil can be expelled from our lives.

The father experienced the joy of having his son healed by Jesus Christ. Believers find joy in Christ through prayer, fasting and living in ways pleasing to Christ.

The Church guides and nourishes believers from Baptism until their departure from this life. The Church offers Jesus' teachings and verifies his miracles through proclaiming the Gospel.

The Holy Mysteries in the Church enable believers to be united and remain united with Christ. Repentance is always encouraged and possible while life remains and the mind functions.

Hope in Christ has a basis in the Resurrection. Every issue is capable of being dealt with through the help of the Crucified and Resurrected Christ. Relationship issues, illness and despair can be faced with Christ's help.

The Resurrected Christ demonstrated that even death is not final. Eternal life is possible. The present Gospel references that Jesus would die and rise from the dead.

Each Sunday believers celebrating the Divine Liturgy experience Christ's Resurrection. Believers have the blessing to partake of Jesus' Precious Body and Blood during the Divine Liturgy.

The father with the afflicted son had the wisdom to turn to Jesus for healing. Believers are wise in turning to Christ for guidance in addressing life's problems. Jesus brings healing to the heart, mind and soul.

Husbands and wives centering their lives in Christ have a stronger marriage. Families focused on Christ grow and develop through the years. Jesus does not disappoint those placing faith and confidence in Him.

Persons of strong faith influence the direction of the home and their surroundings. Parish churches improve and strengthen neighborhoods and communities.

Jesus Christ brightens the world where He is celebrated and glorified. Active worship makes a difference in daily life. The darkness of Holy Friday is always replaced by the brightness of the Resurrection.

The discouraged and perplexed father found joy in Jesus Christ when his son was healed. All persons having issues find joy when turning to Christ in faith. Prayer and fasting facilitate the healing and arrival of joy.

The proof of the value of living in Christ is in the actual doing. Being a Christian involves being active in faith and in following Christ. Being lukewarm as a Christian is perilous to the soul. (Rev.3:16)

Thank God for the present Gospel as a source of instruction and hope. Thank God for the healing resting in Jesus Christ. God's Holy Church brings Jesus Christ to believers throughout the world.

Today is the day to embrace the Healing, Crucified and Resurrected Christ. Now is the time to increase prayer and fasting. Let us always "Seek first the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness" (Mt. 6:33)

The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost. Holy and Righteous Eudocimus. Holy Martyr Julitta. July 31/August 13, 2023. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania.

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