

## 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)

The Lord Jesus Christ's power to forgive sins is life-renewing. Unforgiven sins weigh on a person and affect personal health and wellness. Sins buried in the consciousness affect the ability to think clearly.

Hidden and unconfessed sins will destroy personal peace. The Church provides confession for believers seeking to repent of their sins. Repenting of sins is the way to be reconciled and united with Jesus Christ.

The man in the present Gospel afflicted with paralysis had his sins forgiven. Jesus Christ gave the man mobility. Jesus gave the man freedom of movement. Believers forgiven of their sins have new found freedom in Christ.

The Church proclaims the present Gospel to keep believers constantly aware of Jesus' power of forgiveness and of the value of forgiveness. Forgiveness offers hope to individuals dealing with despair.

Forgiveness offers individuals a road to freedom, the road to God's Kingdom and eternal life. Everyone sins. Thoughts come to mind that are contrary to the Lord's teachings.

Words come out the mouth that are harmful and often unintended. When a person sins, the individual can become depressed and feel trapped. Jesus welcomes the person turning to Him sincerely seeking forgiveness.

Jesus demonstrates His love for each person. Jesus' love actively washes away the repentant person's sins. The heart, mind and soul are energized when forgiveness occurs. The body changes when Jesus' forgives the person.

The Gospel proclaimed in the Church is always timely and relevant. The Gospel speaks to each heart, mind and soul. Believers gathered in the Church unite when attentively hearing the Gospel.

The heart, mind and soul are nourished with the Gospel's proclamation. Believers are transformed and lifted to new heights when the Gospel is proclaimed. The man in the Gospel was freed from the prison of his paralysis by Christ.

The Gospel is the key to freedom for believers imprisoned by sin. Christ enters the heart, mind and soul through the Gospel. Christ unites with believers through Confession and Communion.

Each Divine Liturgy is a freeing experience. The Divine Liturgy frees the believers of worldly cares. The Divine Liturgy lifts the believer to the heights of the glory of God.

Believers have a responsibility when being freed of sin. Believers forgiven of sins are expected to honor Christ and make a sincere effort to follow Christ's teachings. Jesus Christ is due gratitude when sins are forgiven.

Believers taking the life in Christ seriously demonstrate faithfulness to Christ in daily actions. Gratitude to Jesus Christ becomes a daily effort for believers cherishing forgiveness,

The Church nourishes and guides believers seeking to avoid committing further sins. The healed man in the current Gospel had the opportunity to begin life anew. Persons healed of sins prove their gratefulness to Christ by the way they live.

Newness in Christ transforms believers. Behavior changes for the better. Vocabulary changes. Demeanor is different. Joy replaces gloom and negativity. The body moves more freely when a person's sins are forgiven.

Each Divine Liturgy affects the participants collectively. Communities improve with each celebration of the Divine Liturgy. Believers exit the Church renewed and go to their homes and occupations with increased strength.

Jesus broke down the barrier of death when He rose from the grave. Jesus destroys the paralysis of sin by forgiveness. Jesus brings Light to the darkest moments of life.

Each Divine Liturgy brings with it the expectation that believers in attendance will be fully attentive to the content. Individuals attending the Divine Liturgy have a responsibility to be fully immersed in the service.

The heart, mind and soul have an active part in the Divine Liturgy. The believer controls his or her degree of attentiveness and participation. Each person determines the degree he or she actively participates in the Liturgy.

The Divine Liturgy enters time and transports believers to a foretaste of God's Kingdom. Jesus Christ entered the paralyzed man's life and lifted the man to newness of life.

Each heart, mind and soul open to Christ has the opportunity to experience the heavenly heights. Believers open to Jesus Christ experience immeasurable joy. Peace and freedom enter the lives of the forgiven in Christ.

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Holy Myrr-bearer and Equal to the Apostles Mary Magdalene. Hieromartyr Phocas. July 22/August 4, 2924, Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic.