

**St. John Chrysostom** (349-407) born in Antioch is the most prominent Greek father of the Church. Because of his sermons and writings to explain the faith and to encourage the practice of the Christian life he was called John of the Golden Mouth.



**First Reading:** (1 Tim 2:1-8) First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all men, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life, godly and respectful in every way. This is good, and it is acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, the testimony to which was borne at the proper time. For this I was appointed a preacher and apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth. I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarrelling.

**Ps 27:2, 7-9**

**R./ Blessed be the Lord, for he has heard my cry.**

**Gospel:** (Lk 7:1-10) Jesus entered Capernaum. Now a centurion had a slave who

was dear to him, who was sick and at the point of death. When he heard of Jesus, he sent to him elders of the Jews, asking him to come and heal his slave. And when they came to Jesus, they besought him earnestly, saying, "He is worthy to have you do this for him, for he loves our nation, and he built us our synagogue." And Jesus went with them. When he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to him, saying to him, "Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; therefore I did not presume to come to you. But say the word, and let my servant be healed. For I am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me: and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard this he marvelled at him, and turned and said to the multitude that followed him, "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith." And when those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the slave well.

## REFLECTION

A centurion during the time of Jesus was part of the Roman occupation force in Judea. In today's gospel he seeks Jesus' with a request to heal his slave. What comes alive as the gospel narrative proceeds is centurion's faith that Jesus could heal his slave even from a distance and that he is unworthy to have Jesus under his roof. Jesus's response reveals that the faith of the centurion in His power to heal the servant surpasses the faith of his own countrymen in and around Nazareth. Can we notice the all-encompassing love of God here? Luke reveals the fact that irrespective of who we are and what we have done, **God's graces are gratuitous and it is available to anyone who seeks Him with humility and faith**, as demonstrated by the centurion.