

“Lord, I Am Not Worthy”

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The Centurion was a Roman living and working in Jerusalem. Though not a Jewish believer, he had heard about Jesus, and when his servant fell desperately ill, he sought out the wonder-worker from Nazareth. Of course, Jesus agreed to come and cure the servant. But the Centurion responded with these words, a powerful act of faith: “Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; only speak the word and my servant will be healed” (Matthew 8:8, NRSV; see also Luke 7:6). At every Mass, just before Holy Communion, we echo the Centurion’s words. In the revised translation of *The Roman Missal*, our response will change slightly, making the scriptural echo even easier to hear. “Lord, I am not worthy / that you should enter under my roof, / but only say the word / and my soul shall be healed.” The liturgy invites us, at this holy moment, to the Centurion’s faith in what Jesus can do. The power of Christ, which restored the Centurion’s servant to health, is offered to us in the Eucharist. We have only to accept the invitation. “Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb!”

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