



# Celebrate

Sunday, October 5, 2025

17th Sunday after Pentecost

*A little faith goes a long way is Jesus' point in the gospel. A mustard seed's worth of faith has miraculous potential. The patience, tenacity, and endurance required for the life of faith are the blessings received in holy baptism, holy communion, and the word read and proclaimed in this assembly. Anticipate them. Receive them with thanksgiving.*

## Prayer of the Day

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Benevolent, merciful God: When we are empty, fill us. When we are weak in faith, strengthen us. When we are cold in love, warm us, that with fervor we may love our neighbors and serve them for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## First Reading

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4

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*Injustice and violence in the time leading up to the Babylonian exile move this prophet to lament: How can a good and all-powerful God see evil in the world and seemingly remain indifferent? God answers by proclaiming that the righteous will live by faith.*

The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw.

<sup>2</sup>O LORD, how long shall I cry for help,

and you will not listen?

Or cry to you "Violence!"

and you will not save?

<sup>3</sup>Why do you make me see wrongdoing

and look at trouble?

Destruction and violence are before me;

strife and contention arise.

<sup>4</sup>So the law becomes slack

and justice never prevails.

The wicked surround the righteous—  
therefore judgment comes forth  
perverted.

<sup>2:1</sup>I will stand at my watchpost,  
and station myself on the rampart;

I will keep watch to see what he will  
say to me,

and what he will answer

concerning my complaint.

<sup>2</sup>Then the LORD answered me and  
said:

Write the vision;

make it plain on tablets,

so that a runner may read it.

<sup>3</sup>For there is still a vision for the  
appointed time;

it speaks of the end, and does  
not lie.

If it seems to tarry, wait for it;

it will surely come, it will not delay.

<sup>4</sup>Look at the proud!

Their spirit is not right in them,  
but the righteous live by their  
faith.



Com - mit your way to the LORD; put your trust in the LORD.

Do not be provoked by <sup>1</sup> evildoers;  
do not be jealous of those <sup>1</sup> who do wrong.

<sup>2</sup>**For they shall soon wither <sup>1</sup> like the grass,  
and like the green grass <sup>1</sup> fade away.**

<sup>3</sup>Put your trust in the LORD <sup>1</sup> and do good;  
dwell in the land and <sup>1</sup> find safe pasture.

<sup>4</sup>**Take delight <sup>1</sup> in the LORD,  
who shall give you your <sup>1</sup> heart's desire. R**

<sup>5</sup>Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust <sup>1</sup> in the LORD,  
and see what <sup>1</sup> God will do.

<sup>6</sup>**The LORD will make your vindication as clear <sup>1</sup> as the light  
and the justice of your case like the <sup>1</sup> noonday sun.**

<sup>7</sup>Be still before the LORD and wait <sup>1</sup> patiently.  
Do not be provoked by the one who prospers,  
the one who succeeds in <sup>1</sup> evil schemes.

<sup>8</sup>**Refrain from anger, leave <sup>1</sup> rage alone;  
do not be provoked; it leads on- <sup>1</sup> ly to evil.**

<sup>9</sup>For evildoers shall <sup>1</sup> be cut off,  
but those who hope in the LORD shall pos- <sup>1</sup> sess the land. R

*This letter written to Timothy is a personal message of encouragement. In the face of hardship and persecution, Timothy is reminded that his faith is a gift of God. He is encouraged to exercise that faith with the help of the Holy Spirit.*

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,

<sup>2</sup>To Timothy, my beloved child:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

<sup>3</sup>I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. <sup>4</sup>Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. <sup>5</sup>I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. <sup>6</sup>For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; <sup>7</sup>for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

<sup>8</sup>Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his

prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, <sup>9</sup>who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, <sup>10</sup>but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. <sup>11</sup>For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, <sup>12</sup>and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to him. <sup>13</sup>Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>14</sup>Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

## Gospel

## Luke 17:5-10

*On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus instructs his followers about the power of faith and the duties of discipleship. He calls his disciples to adopt the attitude of servants whose actions are responses to their identity rather than works seeking reward.*

The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” <sup>6</sup>The Lord replied, “If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.

<sup>7</sup>“Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, ‘Come here at once and take your place at the table’? <sup>8</sup>Would you not rather say to him, ‘Prepare sup-

per for me, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink’? <sup>9</sup>Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? <sup>10</sup>So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, ‘We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!’”

# Prayers of Intercession

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

Renewed in God’s everlasting grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all creation.

A brief silence.

O God of the church, you give the church a treasure in Jesus Christ. Draw us into the gift of faith passed down from generation to generation. Remind your people that faith the size of a mustard seed is enough. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

O God of creation, you nourish the earth with grace and mercy. Bring favorable weather during the harvest season and sustain all creation along with all who labor in the field. Ensure the welfare of animal companions whose presence offers comfort, safety, and joy. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

O God of nations and communities, you govern and guard the world. Give leaders and people in authority a spirit of making just and righteous laws. Bring peace to countries affected by war and violence (*especially*). God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

O God of those in need, you care for those who are sick, oppressed, bereaved, lonely, and poor. Come to the help of all in need (*especially*). Help us to trust that you will come to us at the right time. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

O God of this congregation, you nurture our faith. Thank you for those of all ages who teach, lead, and learn in this congregation and beyond. Give growth to the seeds of faith watered by faithful examples of baptismal living. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

O God of ages past, thank you for the witness of those who have died in faith (*especially*). May the faith of those who now rest in your merciful arms, like Lois and Eunice, shape our faith in your Son, Jesus Christ. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

We offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## Preparing for Next Week

**Monday** (commemoration of William Tyndale, translator, martyr, 1536) Psalm 3. **Tuesday** (commemoration of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, pastor in North America, 1787) 1 John 5:1-5, 13-21. **Wednesday** Habakkuk 2:12-20. **Thursday** Psalm 111. **Friday** Numbers 4:34—5:4. **Saturday** Luke 5:12-16. **18th Sunday after Pentecost** 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c; Psalm 111; 2 Timothy 2:8-15; Luke 17:11-19.

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