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**17th Sunday after Pentecost**

“The apostles said to the Lord, ‘Increase our faith!’ And the Lord said, ‘If you had faith like a gran of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the seas,’ and it would obey you.” *Luke 17:5-6*

**AS WE GATHER**

Sometimes our faith is weak, and we wonder if God will hear our complaints and prayers. But He is always there, listening in love and offering grace and blessings. The bigger question is whether we will hear His promises and forgiveness. Today’s Reading from Habakkuk is a resounding “yes,” for it is a reminder that we trust our heavenly Father because of the greatest gift we have received: faith. Sometimes, like with the apostles in today’s Gospel, it seems we need more faith, but God, who has given us that precious gift, promises, “the righteous shall live by his faith” (Habakkuk 2:4). In the Epistle, Paul rejoices over Timothy’s faith in our Savior, who “abolished death and brought life and immortality to light” (2 Timothy 1:10). Paul encourages Timothy to “guard the good deposit entrusted” to him and each person of faith (2 Timothy 1:14). Rejoice, for today that faith moves us to hear, listen, and respond in word and song.

**INVOCATION, OLD TESTAMENT READINGS, CONFESSION, ABSOLUTION, and OPENING SENTENCES**

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT** Habakkuk 1:1-4 *(bulletin insert)*

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Pastor: Having heard the complaint of the prophet Habakkuk, let us confess our sins.

**People: We confess, almighty God, that we have not trusted Your promises; we have wondered if You have heard our cries for help. In our own sinfulness, we confess that we have considered ourselves better than others. We have failed by our sinful thoughts, words, and deeds. We are helpless to change without Your grace and mercy. For Jesus’ sake, forgive us and renew our trust in Your promises and protection.**

**OLD TESTAMENT** Habakkuk 2:1-4 *(bulletin insert)*

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Pastor: The prophet did not get an answer about when his prayers would be answered by almighty God, but he trusted nonetheless. Faith is a gift from God by which we can trust Him, hear the Good News, and truly listen. Through the sacrifice of His Son for us, God declares us righteous even as we struggle in our daily problems. The promises of God were all kept by our Lord Jesus Christ. In His Son’s resurrection, we receive the promise of eternal life. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen. Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN** *“Jesus Loves Me”* (*LSB* 588)

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.

Little ones to Him belong; they are weak, but He is strong.

 *Refrain* Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! He who died, Heaven’s gates to open wide.

He has washed away my sin, lets His little child come in. *Refrain*

**COLLECT OF THE DAY** *(bulletin insert)*

**EPISTLE** 2 Timothy 1:1-4 *(bulletin insert)*

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** Luke 16:1-15 *(bulletin insert)*

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**HYMN** *“I Know My Faith Is Founded”* (*LSB* 587)

I know my faith is founded on Jesus Christ, my God and Lord;

and this my faith confessing, unmoved I stand on His sure Word.

Our reason cannot fathom the truth of God profound;

who trusts in human wisdom relies on shifting ground.

God’s Word is all-sufficient, it makes divinely sure;

and trusting in its wisdom, my faith shall rest secure.

Increase my faith, dear Savior, for Satan seeks by night and day

to rob me of this treasure and take my hope of bliss away.

But, Lord, with You beside me, I shall be undismayed;

and led by Your good Spirit, I shall be unafraid.

Abide with me, O Savior, a firmer faith bestow;

then I shall bid defiance to ev’ry evil foe.

In faith, Lord, let me serve You; though persecution, grief, and pain should seek to overwhelm me, let me a steadfast trust retain;

and then at my departure, Lord, take me home to You,

Your riches to inherit as all You said holds true.

In life and death, Lord, keep me until Your heav’n I gain,

where I by Your great mercy the end of faith attain.

**SERMON “*Mustard Seed Faith”***

# THE APOSTLES’ CREED

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

# PRAYER OF THE CHURCH and LORD’S PRAYER

**DISTRIBUTION of HOLY COMMUNION** *(Saturday)*

### BENEDICTION

**HYMNS** *“God Loves Me Dearly”* (*LSB* 392)

God loves me dearly, grants me salvation,

God loves me dearly, loves even me.

 *Refrain* Therefore I’ll say again: God loves me dearly,

 God loves me dearly, loves even me.

I was in slav’ry, sin, death, and darkness;

God’s love was working to make me free. *Refrain*

He sent forth Jesus, my dear Redeemer,

He sent forth Jesus and set me free. *Refrain*

Jesus, my Savior, Himself did offer;

Jesus, my Savior, paid all I owed. *Refrain*

Now I will praise You, O Love Eternal;

now I will praise You all my life long. *Refrain*

*“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”* (*LSB* 922)

Go, My children, with My blessing, never alone.

Waking, sleeping, I am with you; you are My own.

In My love’s baptismal river I have made you Mine forever.

Go, My children, with My blessing—you are My own.

Go, My children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.

Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.

Here you heard My dear Son’s story; here you touched Him, saw His glory.

Go, My children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.

Go, My children, fed and nourished, closer to Me;

grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.

Here My Spirit’s power filled you; here His tender comfort stilled you.

Go, My children, fed and nourished, Joyful and free.

I the Lord will bless and keep you and give you peace;

I the Lord will smile upon you and give you peace:

I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter, and Brother.

Go, My children; I will keep you and give you peace.