

Church of the Divine Love
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
PROPER 22
OCTOBER 2, 2022
10:15 A.M.
HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

Please observe silence

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn #671 – **Amazing grace! how sweet the sound**

Opening Acclamation page 355

Collect for Purity page 355

Gloria page 356

Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

First Lesson: **Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4**

Psalm 37:1-10

Second Lesson: **2 Timothy 1:1-14**

Gradual Hymn –#488 – **Be thou my vision**

Gospel: **Luke 17:5-10**

Sermon – The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze

Nicene Creed page 358

Prayers of the People, Form IV page 388

The Confession of Sin page 360

The Peace

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn **#541; vs 1,2,4,5 – Come, labor on**

Doxology (sung)

The Great Thanksgiving:

Eucharistic Prayer C page 369

Sanctus (S-130 in hymnal) page 362

The Lord's Prayer page 364

The Breaking of the Bread, Anthem & Prayer page 337

The Communion of the People

Communion Hymn – **#551 – Rise up, ye saints of God!**

Post Communion Prayer page 365

Prayer for Peace – on insert

Prayer of St. Francis page 833

Dismissal Hymn –**#660 – O Master let me walk with thee**

Dismissal

Sermon Sunday October 2, 2022

Habakkuk 1:1-4,2:1-4; Psalm 37:1-10; 2 Timothy 1-14; Luke 17:5-10

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

“If I just had more faith....” I think most of us have struggled with that at some point in our lives. If I just had more faith, I wouldn't have so many questions or doubts. If I just had more faith God would answer my prayers. If I just had more faith, he wouldn't have died; she would have recovered. If I just had more faith, I would be more involved in the church. If I just had more faith, I would be a better person, a better parent, a better spouse. If I just had more faith, I would know what to do, I would handle things better. If I just had more faith life would be different.

It is an approach to faith at least as old as the apostles' own faith. It is the approach they have taken in today's gospel. “Increase our faith,” they ask Jesus. Jesus has just warned them not to become stumbling blocks to others and enjoined them to forgive as often as an offender repents even if it is seven times in one day. That will be difficult. It will be a challenge to live that way. “Increase our faith,”

is their response. It seems like a reasonable request. If a little is good a lot must be better. If McDonald's can supersize our fries and drink surely Jesus can supersize our faith. The request to increase our faith, the belief that if I had more faith things would be different, reveals, at best, a misunderstanding of faith itself and, at worst, demonstrates our own unfaithfulness. Jesus is very clear that faithfulness is not about size or quantity. "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed," he says, "you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you."

Faith is not given to us in a packet to be spent as currency in our dealings with God. Faith is not measured out according to how difficult the task or work before us. Faith is not a thing we have or get. Faith is a relationship of trust and love. It means opening ourselves to receive another's life and giving our life to another. That other one is Jesus the Christ. That one faith-relationship is determinative of who we are and how we live. Faith is not about giving intellectual agreement to a particular doctrine or idea. Faith is not about how much or how strongly we believe Jesus's words or actions. When we speak about a married couple's faithfulness, we do not mean they believe or agree with each other's ideas or even a particular understanding of marriage. They are faithful because they have committed themselves to each other in love and trust. They are faithful because they continually give their life to the other and receive the other's life as their own. They are faithful because they carry with them that one relationship wherever they go, in all that they are and all that they do. So, it is in our faith-relationship with Jesus.

Faith will not, however, change the circumstances of our lives. Instead, it changes us. Living in faith does not shield us from the pain and difficulties of life, it does not undo the past, and it will not guarantee a particular future. Rather, faith is the means by which we face and deal with the circumstances of life – the difficulties and losses, the joys and successes, the opportunities, and possibilities. Faith does not get us a pat on the back, a reward, or a promotion in God's eyes. It is simply the way in which we live and move and have our being so that, at the end of the day, the faithful ones can say, without pride or shame, we have done only what we ought to have done! Nothing more and nothing less. We have lived in openness to, trust in, and love for Christ. We have allowed him to guide our decisions, our words, and our actions. We have been sustained by him in both life and death.

Faith, however, is not lived out in the abstract. It is practiced day after day in the ordinary everyday circumstances. Some days when the pain and heaviness of life seem more than we can carry it is by faith, relationship with Jesus, that we get up each morning and face the reality of life. Other days present other circumstances. When we feel the pain of the world and respond with compassion by feeding the hungry, housing the homeless, speaking for justice; when we experience the brokenness of a relationship and offer forgiveness and mercy; when we see the downtrodden and offer our presence and prayers — in all those we have lived, seen, and acted by faith. Then there are days when we feel powerless, lost, and do not know the way forward. By faith we sit in silence and wait.

Faith, then, is how we live; the lens through which we see ourselves, others, and the world; the criterion by which we act and speak. Faithfulness means that no matter where we go, no matter what circumstances we face we do so in relationship with the One who created, loves, sustains, and redeems us, the One who "abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel" (2 Timothy 1:10). Jesus does not supersize our faith. It is not necessary. We live by faith not because we have enough faith but because we have faith, any faith, even mustard seed sized faith. That is all we need. Jesus believes that. So should we.

The question is not how much faith we have but, rather, how are we living the faith we do have. How is our faith, our relationship with Jesus, changing our lives, our relationships, the lives of others? If it is not, more of the same will surely make no difference. The mustard seed of faith is already planted within us. It is Christ himself. He has withheld from us nothing. We already have enough. We already are enough. We do not need more faith. We need more response to the faith, the Christ, the mustard seed, the relationship we already have.

Our faith asks that we give ourselves fully and completely to God. In doing so, we will be compelled to serve God fully and completely. Serving God involves not only loving God but also loving our neighbors as ourselves. In loving God, we serve others, giving our time, talent, and treasure to ensuring that the dignity of every human being is realized. We do this not just because it is the right thing to do, but because every single human is made in the image of God and is known by God long before he or she was fashioned in the womb. No thank-you is needed. No attention desired. We only do what we ought to do because as followers of Christ, we cannot do anything else. This is not easy at times; we have doubts, frustrations, and anxieties to wrestle with as we work to selflessly give ourselves over to God and others. We must rely on our faith—faith that God is there supporting us and holding us as we give ourselves over to the work of building God’s Kingdom here on earth. **AMEN!**

17 PENTECOST	10:15 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II	(also on zoom)
		COFFEE HOUR FOLLOW	
	11:30 AM	VESTRY MEETING	
MONDAY	8:00 AM	AA MEETING	
WEDNESDAY	7:00 PM	AL-ANON MEETING	
THURSDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP	
	8:00 PM	AA MEETING	
SATURDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP	
18 PENTECOST	10:15 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II	(also on zoom)
		COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS	

The Committee for the Election of a Bishop Coadjutor for our Diocese
has announced the following slate:

The Rev. Matthew Foster Heyd

The Rev. Stephanie M. Johnson

The Diocese of New York

The Diocese of Connecticut

The Rev. The Rev. Matthew Hoxie Mead

The Diocese of New York

The Rev. Steven D. Paulikas

The Rev. Robert Jemonde Taylor

The Diocese of Long Islans

The Diocese of North Carolina

For more info visit bishopsearch.dioceseny.org

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Give to all who suffer the refreshing waters of your compassion and healing.
Make them dwell in the safety of your care even in the midst of all that troubles
them. Especially we remember before you:

Grace Schinella

Harriet Capers

Bob Curley

John Mulligan

Arlene Goodenough

Celeste

Chris Dickson

Kate Jones

Deb P.

Michael Echevarria

John Rocco

Robert Sweat

Barbara Stinson

Michael & Family

Warren

Charlotte H.	Bernie Walther	Anthony
Mo (Rachael)	Bill Conklin Sr.	Laura
Anthony Paribello	Barbara Curran	Taylor
Ciara	Gabriel	Aidan
Elodie	Sophia	Carol K.
People of Haiti	Christopher & Family	Julia
Maggie & Family	People of Ukraine	Tim
Nathan Treadwell	Bob Lazevnick	Art
Bill Masoeust	Carolyn	Del
Victims of Hurricane Ian		

Help us speak words of encouragement and offer deeds of kindness to them.
Bring us with them, into the unending joy of your kingdom. Amen

	This Week	Next Week
Eucharistic Minister	Roe Prosser	Jess Berbeck
Coffee Hour	Nolans	Prossers

Prayer before Worship

Almighty God, who pours out on all who desire it, the spirit of grace. Deliver us, when we draw near to you, from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind, that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections we may worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn to be sung during the consecration:

Father I adore you,

Lay my life before you,

How I love you.

Repeat twice with second verse starting with Jesus
and third verse starting with Spirit.

Prayer for Peace

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn

but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So
mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that

all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince
of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominions
and glory, now and for ever. Amen

