

Church of the Divine Love

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PROPER 22

OCTOBER 5, 2025 10:15 AM

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

A Morning Prayer – on insert

THE WORD OF GOD

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Gloria page 356

Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

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

Psalm 37:1-10 page 633

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

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

Sermon – The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze – printed on insert

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The Peace

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Doxology (sung)

The Great Thanksgiving:

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Sermon Sunday October 5, 2025

Habakkuk 1: 1-4, 2:1-4; Psalm 37; 2 Timothy 1:1-14; 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; 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.

While Jesus here presses his disciples with what could be read as exasperation, Paul's letter to Timothy offers a gentler encouragement. If Jesus is the parent at the end of their rope, Paul is the parent who kneels down to remind us of who we are. Paul affirms and celebrates the gift of sincere faith displayed in Timothy, passed with wisdom through generations, and he affirms and celebrates the grace from Jesus Christ, who has brought eternal life and light through the gospel. But Paul does not say, "Great, Jesus has come, we can relish in his light and grace. Go take a nap." No, he encourages Timothy to join him in the "suffering for the gospel." Paul, of course, writes these words from prison, expecting execution any day. He neither dwells on his current state in a call for sympathy nor tells Timothy to run away to avoid the same fate. He implores Timothy to join him in suffering. To jump in. To just go for it, taking the risk, being brave and bold, embracing the responsibility of leading the church in Ephesus and beyond. Boldness,

Paul knows, is necessary for the life of faith. Paul's witness reminds us that boldness does not mean fearlessness; it means living faithfully in spite of fear. The life of faith is complicated. People are complicated. And following Christ is complicated. There are expectations we will never fully meet. There are failures we cannot avoid. There are times when we might doubt if we are prepared to live out such a life. We, like the disciples, may feel like we just need a little more faith, and then we can proclaim the Gospel, love our neighbor, be "good enough."

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. But grace abounds. Faith the size of a mustard seed is enough. **Amen.**

All baptized Christians, regardless of age, are welcome to receive communion in the Episcopal Church.

17 PENTECOST - PROPER 22	10:15 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II
		COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS
MONDAY	8:00 PM	AA MEETING
TUESDAY	6:00 PM	BIBLE STUDY
WEDNESDAY	7:00 PM	AL-ANON MEETING
THURSDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP
SATURDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP

18 PENTECOST - PROPER 23

10:15 AM

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS

SATURDAY< OCTOBER 11th – CLEAN-UP DAY - 9AM

	Today	Next Week
Eucharistic Minister	Dana Kenn	Anthony Giordano
Coffee Hour	Dave Treasure	Judy Golden

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Loving God, comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind or spirit. Give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation. Especially we remember before you:

Barbara Curran	Betty Curley	Martin
Bob Curley	Steve Curley	Joseph
Chris Dickson	John Rocco	Deb P.
John Mulligan	Marjorie Guerrier	Bobby
Donald Edwards	Robert Hosey	Ryan
Sister Eddie	Bernie Walther	Celeste
Beverly Noel	Phil Ryder	Warren

Anthony Paribello	Jonathan	Del
Donna Amundsen	Kate Jones	Jan
Shannon & Family	Vincent & Barbara	Sandy
Mary & Family	Wendy	James
Nathan Treadwell	Gladys Hadija	Sophia
Michael & Family	Brooke & Kylee	Mo
Michelle & Family	Christopher	Annie
Timothy Treasure	Donna A.	Aika
Moises Parra	Misael Varas	Kristen
Scottie Credendino	Michael	

All people and countries suffering from violence, hatred and natural disaster.

The homeless and food insecure.

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.

To add or make changes to the prayer list during the week,

email Janet Croft at jmc220@optonline.net.

A Morning Prayer

Father in heaven, I stand ready to receive Your wisdom

and guidance. In each decision, big or small, lead me to discern your will and to act accordingly. Help me to understand the depth of Your wisdom, finding guidance in Your word and through prayer. Teach me to be patient as I wait for Your direction, trusting that Your timing is perfect. May I navigate this day with the assurance that Your wisdom is a treasure far greater than any earthly knowledge. Guide my thoughts and actions, that they may be a reflection of Your discernment and love. In Your guidance, I find the path to a life of purpose and peace.

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 forever. Amen

