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**Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost
October 6, 2019**

Prayer of the Day

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.

First Reading

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

The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw.

² O LORD, how long shall I cry for help,
and you will not listen?

Or cry to you 'Violence!'
and you will not save?

³ Why do you make me see wrongdoing
and look at trouble?

Destruction and violence are before me;
strife and contention arise.

⁴ So the law becomes slack
and justice never prevails.

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

2 I will stand at my watch-post,
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.

² Then the LORD answered me and said:

Write the vision;
make it plain on tablets,
so that a runner may read it.

³ 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.

⁴ Look at the proud!
Their spirit is not right in them,
but the righteous live by their faith.

⁵ Moreover, wealth is treacherous;

the arrogant do not endure.
 They open their throats wide as Sheol;
 like Death they never have enough.
 They gather all nations for themselves,
 and collect all peoples as their own.
 6 Shall not everyone taunt such people and, with mocking riddles, say about them,
 'Alas for you who heap up what is not your own!'

How long will you load yourselves with goods taken in pledge?
 7 Will not your own creditors suddenly rise,
 and those who make you tremble wake up?
 Then you will be booty for them.

8 Because you have plundered many nations,
 all that survive of the peoples shall plunder you—
 because of human bloodshed, and violence to the earth,
 to cities and all who live in them.

9 'Alas for you who get evil gain for your houses,
 setting your nest on high
 to be safe from the reach of harm!'

10 You have devised shame for your house
 by cutting off many peoples;
 you have forfeited your life.

11 The very stones will cry out from the wall,
 and the plaster will respond from the woodwork.

12 'Alas for you who build a town by bloodshed,
 and found a city on iniquity!'

13 Is it not from the LORD of hosts
 that peoples labour only to feed the flames,
 and nations weary themselves for nothing?

14 But the earth will be filled
 with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD,
 as the waters cover the sea.

15 'Alas for you who make your neighbours drink,
 pouring out your wrath until they are drunk,
 in order to gaze on their nakedness!'

16 You will be sated with contempt instead of glory.
 Drink, you yourself, and stagger!
 The cup in the LORD's right hand
 will come around to you,
 and shame will come upon your glory!

17 For the violence done to Lebanon will overwhelm you;
 the destruction of the animals will terrify you—
 because of human bloodshed and violence to the earth,
 to cities and all who live in them.

¹⁸ What use is an idol
once its maker has shaped it—
a cast image, a teacher of lies?
For its maker trusts in what has been made,
though the product is only an idol that cannot speak!
¹⁹ Alas for you who say to the wood, 'Wake up!'
to silent stone, 'Rouse yourself!'
Can it teach?
See, it is plated with gold and silver,
and there is no breath in it at all.

²⁰ But the LORD is in his holy temple;
let all the earth keep silence before him!

Second Reading

2Timothy 1:1-14

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

2 To Timothy, my beloved child:

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

3 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. ⁴Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵I 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. ⁶For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; ⁷for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

8 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, ⁹who 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, ¹⁰but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Saviour Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. ¹¹For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, ¹²and 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. ¹³Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

Gospel

Luke 17:5-10

5 The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith!' ⁶The 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.

7 'Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from ploughing or tending sheep in the field, "Come here at once and take your place at the table"? ⁸Would you not rather say to him, "Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink"? ⁹Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? ¹⁰So 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!" '