

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God, who art always more ready to hear than we to pray, and art wont to give more than either we desire or deserve: Pour down upon us the abundance of thy mercy, forgiving us those things whereof our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask, but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

FIRST READING: Habakkuk 1:1-13; 2:1-4

The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk sport. They laugh at every fortress, and saw. O LORD, how long shall I cry heap up earth to take it. Then they for help, and you will not listen? Or sweep by like the wind; they transgress cry to you "Violence!" and you will and become guilty; their own might is not save? Why do you make me see their god! Are you not from of old, O wrong-doing and look at trouble? LORD my God, my Holy One? You Destruction and violence are before me; shall not die. O LORD, you have strife and contention arise. So the law marked them for judgment; and you, becomes slack and justice never O Rock, have established them for prevails. The wicked surround the punishment. Your eyes are too pure to righteous--therefore judgment comes behold evil, and you cannot look on forth perverted. Look at the nations, wrongdoing; why do you look on the and see! Be astonished! Be astounded! treacherous, and are silent when the For a work is being done in your days wicked swallow those more righteous that you would not believe if you were than they? I will stand at my watch-told. For I am rousing the Chaldeans, post, and station myself on the rampart; that fierce and impetuous nation, who I will keep watch to see what he will march through the breadth of the earth say to me, and what he will answer to seize dwellings not their own. Dread concerning my complaint. Then the and fearsome are they; their justice and dignity proceed from themselves. Their horses are swifter than leopards, more so that a runner may read it. For there menacing than wolves at dusk; their horses charge. Their horsemen come 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 from far away; they fly like an eagle swift to devour. They all come for surely come, it will not delay. Look violence, with faces pressing forward; they gather captives like sand. At kings at the proud! Their spirit is not right in them, but the righteous live by their they scoff, and of rulers they make faith.

Psalm 37: 3-10

- 3 Put your trust in the LORD and do good; * dwell in the land and feed on its riches.
- 4 Take delight in the LORD, * and he shall give you your heart's desire.

- 5 Commit your way to the LORD and put your trust in him, * and he will bring it to pass.
- 6 He will make your righteousness as clear as the light * and your just dealing as the noonday.
- 7 Be still before the LORD * and wait patiently for him.
- 8 Do not fret yourself over the one who prospers, * the one who succeeds in evil schemes.
- 9 Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; * do not fret yourself; it leads only to evil.
- 10 For evildoers shall be cut off, * but those who wait upon the LORD shall possess the land.

SECOND READING:

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. 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. Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. 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. For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline. Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner,

2 Timothy 1:1-14

but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, 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, 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. For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, 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. Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

GOSPEL:

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" 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. "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

Luke 17:5-10

place at the table?" Would 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'? Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? 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!'

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