

October 5, The Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Opening Collect

Almighty God,
you gave your people your Law of mercy, compassion,
and generosity to strangers,
so that they might know how you want us to live.
Through our Lord Jesus,
who has fulfilled your Law in every way,
grant that we may follow your ways of mercy and love,
keeping your word in our mouths and in our hearts.
We ask this through your Word, Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who with you and the Holy Spirit is one God,
now and for ever.

Habakkuk 1:2-3, 2:2-4: *Habakkuk cried out and cried out and cried out to the point that he thought that he was never going to get an answer from the Lord. The wicked had taken over and violence was being done to God's people. Habakkuk never gave up watching and waiting for the Lord to make things right. Finally, the Lord answered Habakkuk. "Don't worry Habakkuk. I have a plan. If it seems to tarry, just wait. Be patient. Have faith."*

O Lord, how long shall I cry, and thou wilt not hear! even cry out unto thee of violence, and thou wilt not save!

Why dost thou shew me iniquity, and cause me to behold grievance? for spoiling and violence are before me: and there are that raise up strife and contention. And the Lord answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.

For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.

Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.

2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14: *Timothy was a young man to be leading a Christian community. Perhaps the task was too daunting and perhaps also Timothy had reached out to Paul. Paul reminded him that God has not withdrawn either His presence or Timothy's faith so Paul urged him to "rekindle" it! Paul also reminded*

Timothy that God has given us the Holy Spirit, so proclaim the gospel even if you suffer for it. Walk by faith!

Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;

Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us.

Luke 17:5-10: *Jesus had just told the apostles to forgive their brother or sister 7 times in one day. They had a hard time with that (no kidding!). So they asked Jesus "increase our faith." Jesus' response was that it's not the amount of faith we have (as if faith can be quantified!) but whether or not we use it. We are "slaves" Jesus said, who must walk in faith trusting our Master.*

The apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith.

And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you.

But which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle, will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to meat?

And will not rather say unto him, Make ready wherewith I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink?

Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I trow not.

So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.

Faith is a gift from God. He gives us the amount of faith that we need and it never runs out. To ask God to increase our faith is kind of an insult.

Faithfulness, on the other hand, is our response to our faith. It's what we do with our faith. And that is up to us. Faithfulness is defined as being loyal and obedient to the person we put our trust in. We put our faith in Jesus. We also have to be faithful to him.

When we accept Jesus as Saviour, we put our faith in him.

When we accept Jesus as Lord, we put our faithfulness in him.

Jesus needs to be both our Saviour and Lord. It's not enough to say, "Thanks Jesus for dying for me. See ya later." When we accept salvation, we die that day. We are no longer who we were before. At baptism, we are resurrected as new person and we no longer live for ourselves - we live for Jesus Christ. As believers, we must give our entire life (every part of it!) over to God. We have to say, "God. Here I am. Use me as you wish."

And when we do that, we have to be willing to be faithful. When God says, "Okay. Here's what I want you to" we have to be faithful to do it. It's not a matter of faith, it's a matter of faithfulness.

As humans, we like to use excuses. We say things like, "I'm not ready yet. I'm not prepared enough. I need to learn more. I need God to give me more faith." If you are a Christian, you are ready to do whatever it is God wants you to do. He's God. He knows you. If you weren't ready, he wouldn't have asked you. If you are a Christian, you have the Holy Spirit. You have the gift of faith. All you need to do is be faithful. Show your faith by stepping out and relying on His strength - not your own. That's faithfulness.

Thanks be to God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Concluding Prayers:

O God, you inspire zeal while counseling patience, calling us from the paths that lead to ease and indifference. Washed anew each day by our baptism, we wait in steadfast hope and expectation for your coming, even when it seems you are

delayed; not hardening our hearts, nor forsaking our faith. We pray that you keep us dedicated in mind and spirit in holy obedience to your will

We pray for Charles, our king, and all in authority in your world, O Lord. We pray that leaders of all segments of society, church, government and military, business and industry, all social endeavours, will reject empty rhetoric and will speak the truth, for the advancement of the Kingdom among us

We pray for our Parish, O Lord, and for those who live in Sarnia, Corunna, and Lambton County. We pray that we, together with those in our families and in our communities who suffer from illness and disease, loneliness and despair may bask in the warmth and joy and love of the Spirit

We pray for ourselves and for one another, O Lord. We pray that those we criticize and scorn will become our brothers and sisters, and that we make the first step toward reconciliation

We pray that the memory of our loved ones and of all of the saints will keep us steadily on the path to which you point us

O God, the rock of our salvation,
whose gifts can never fail,
deepen the faith you have already bestowed
and let its power be seen in your servants.
We ask this through your Son
our Lord Jesus Christ
who with you and the Holy Spirit,
is one God, now and for ever.

For our Parish.

O GOD the Holy Ghost, Sanctifier of the faithful: Sanctify this parish by thine abiding presence. Enlighten the minds of thy people more and more with the light of the everlasting Gospel. Bring erring souls to the knowledge of God our Saviour; and those who are walking in the way of life, keep steadfast unto the end.

Give patience to the sick and afflicted, and renew them in body and soul.
Guard from forgetfulness of thee those who are strong and prosperous.

Increase in us thy manifold gifts of grace, and make us all to be fruitful in good works; O blessed Spirit, whom with the Father and the Son together we worship and glorify, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

Lord's Prayer

Our Father,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

THE peace of God, which passeth all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord:
And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you and remain with you
always. *Amen*