

OCTOBER 2, 2022
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

taking⁺ faith home

The righteous live by faith.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Luke 17:5-10	Faith the size of a mustard seed
Monday	Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4	The righteous live by faith
Tuesday	2 Timothy 1:1-14	Thanksgiving and encouragement
Wednesday	Romans 1:16-17	The power of the gospel
Thursday	Galatians 3:10-14	Faith is the only way
Friday	Hebrews 10:32-39	A call to persevere
Saturday	Psalm 37:1-9	Trust the Lord
Sunday	Luke 17:11-19	One leper gives thanks to God

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Look at the proud! Their spirit is not right in them, but the righteous live by their faith. Habakkuk 2:4 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, give us the confidence to trust in your justice and loving presence now and always through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God of our future, we thank you for this food that gives us the strength we need to serve others in love as we place our trust in you through Jesus Christ. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. (2 Timothy 1:13)



OCTOBER 2, 2022
HYMN OF THE WEEK
O Holy Spirit, Enter In

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What have you seen, read, or heard about that seems unfair and unjust?
- When something bad happens, where do you feel God is in that moment?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4.

The prophet, Habakkuk is complaining and wondering: why do the wicked prosper? This is an age-old question. Life is just not fair. Violence and destruction continue and the righteous look doomed. God's answer is "*the righteous live by their faith*" (Habakkuk 2:4b). This text is also quoted in Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:11, and Hebrews 10:38. These few words hit an important chord for New Testament faith. Faith in God involves the "long game," not routine experiences of victory after victory. History is full of moments where God's law and justice are overshadowed by the din of evil. God's answer to Habakkuk is now our answer received through faith in Christ. Hang in there with faith in God. God's way will win the day, even if it doesn't appear so now. The apostles in Luke 17:5 say to the Lord, "*Increase our faith!*" It's not about the quantity of faith we have. It's about the qualities of the God in whom we place our trust.

Discuss: When life seems unfair, how do you rely on your faith in God?

Pray: God of the ages, when our confidence is low, when we see wickedness, remind us again and again that in Christ we can rely on your faithfulness now and always. Amen.

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you support someone who feels they have been treated unfairly?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Jesus told a parable about the kingdom of God by comparing faith to a small mustard seed. (Luke 17:5-10). Cut an apple in half and count the seeds. Talk about what would happen if each seed became a tree and produced countless apples. Now compare your faith to a seed and name the ways you can bear fruit for the kingdom of God. Conclude by praying: **Lord God, help us to trust in you and bear fruit that gives glory to you and serves the work of your kingdom through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**