

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 2 OCTOBER 2016

These readings are provided, first, so you can re-read and reflect on them during the week, and second, if you wish, to follow the readings during the service.

Habakkuk 1.1-4; 2.1-4

1 ¹ 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 ¹ 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.

Psalms 37.1-9

¹ Do not vie with the wicked:
or envy those that do wrong;

² For they will soon wither like the grass:
and fade away like the green leaf.

³ Trust in the Lord and do good:

and you shall dwell in the land
and feed in safe pastures.

⁴ Let the Lord be your delight:
and he will grant you your heart's
desire.

⁵ Commit your way to the Lord:
trust him, and he will act.

⁶ He will make your righteousness
shine as clear as the light:
and your innocence as the noonday.

⁷ Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently
for him:

do not be vexed when someone
prosper, when they put their evil
purposes to work.

⁸ Let go of anger and abandon wrath:
let not envy move you to do evil.

⁹ For the wicked shall be cut down:
but those who wait for the Lord shall
possess the land.

2 Timothy 1.1-14

¹ 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. ⁴ Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵ 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. ⁶ For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; ⁷ for 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, ⁹ 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, ¹⁰ but 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. ¹¹ For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, ¹² 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. ¹³ Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴ Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

Luke 17.1-10

¹ Jesus said to his disciples, 'Occasions for stumbling are bound to come, but woe to anyone by whom they come! ² It would be better for you if a millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea than for you to cause one of these little ones to stumble.' ³ Be on your guard! If another disciple sins, you must rebuke the offender, and if there is repentance, you must forgive. ⁴ And if the same person sins against you seven times a day, and turns back to you seven times and says, "I repent", you must forgive.' ⁵ The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith!' ⁶ 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. 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"? ⁸ 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"? ⁹ Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? ¹⁰ 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!" '