

Alleluia, alleluia!

The word of the Lord stands for ever:
it is the word given to you, the Good

News.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 17:5-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according
to Luke.

If you had faith!

The Apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith.' The Lord replied, 'Were your 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.

'Which of you, with a servant ploughing or minding sheep, would say to him when he returned from the fields, "Come and have your meal immediately"? Would he not be more likely to say, "Get my supper laid; make yourself tidy and wait on me while I eat and drink. You can eat and drink yourself afterwards"? Must he be grateful to the servant for doing what he was told? So with you: when you have done all you have been told to do, say, "We are merely servants: we have done no more than our duty."'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.



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Breaking Open the Word

INCREASE OUR FAITH

On the journey of faith there are moments when we may lose heart or be discouraged. Faced with opposition or misunderstanding it is no easy matter to maintain our trust in the Lord. At times the responsibilities of our Christian lives may be experienced as a burden. Like the first disciples, we find ourselves turning to Jesus saying, 'increase our faith!'

When we look around us there is so much suffering caused by injustice and our violence to one another. It is only natural that we question how God's plans will come to fruition when they clash head-on with human weakness. Habakkuk found himself dealing with many of the same issues. His time was one of violence and his hope and faith in God's power and the realisation of God's plans was flagging. Habakkuk is reminded in a vision that while the wheels move slowly, they are moving nonetheless, and God's purposes will come to pass for the upright who remain faithful.

In the second letter to him, Timothy is also called not to lose heart and remain faithful to his responsibilities as a young pastor. Having been commissioned and called to this ministry he may have been discouraged by its demands and complexity. The sound advice that is given is to remember there is no need to rely solely on his own resources. The precious gift of the Spirit has been given. In the ministry of leadership, it is the Spirit that will guide, empower and strengthen – there is no need to fear.

Christopher Monaghan CP

THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

2 OCTOBER 2022

FIRST READING

Hab 1:2-3; 2:2-4

A reading from the prophet Habakkuk

The just will live by faithfulness.

How long, Lord, am I to cry for help
while you will not listen;
to cry 'Oppression!' in your ear
and you will not save?

Why do you set injustice before me,
why do you look on where there is tyranny?
Outrage and violence, this is all I see,
all is contention, and discord flourishes.
Then the Lord answered and said,

'Write the vision down,
inscribe it on tablets
to be easily read,
since this vision is for its own time only:
eager for its own fulfilment, it does not
deceive;
if it comes slowly, wait,
for come it will, without fail.
See how he flags, he whose soul is not at
rights,
but the upright man will live by his
faithfulness.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 94:1-2, 6-9. R. v. 8

**R. If today you hear his voice, harden not
your hearts.**

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; / hail the rock who saves us. / Let us come before him, giving thanks, / with songs let us hail the Lord. **R.**
2. Come in; let us bow and bend low; / let us kneel before the God who made us / for he is our God and we / the people who belong to his pasture, / the flock that is led by his hand. **R.**



3. O that today you would listen to his voice! / 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, / as on that day at Massah in the desert / when your fathers put me to the test; / when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **R.**

SECOND READING

2 Tim 1:6-8, 13-14

A reading from the second letter of St Paul
to Timothy

Never be ashamed of witnessing to the Lord.

I am reminding you to fan into a flame the gift that God gave you when I laid my hands on you. God's gift was not a spirit of timidity, but the Spirit of power, and love, and self-control. So you are never to be ashamed of witnessing to the Lord, or ashamed of me for being his prisoner; but with me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God.

Keep as your pattern the sound teaching you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. You have been trusted to look after something precious; guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

■ The word of the Lord.