

[136] TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME C

FIRST READING

The just will live by faithfulness.

A reading from the book of the prophet Habakkuk

1:2-3; 2:2-4

This was my prayer to God:

“Our Lord, how long must I beg for your help
before you listen?

You won’t help when I tell you about all of the violence.

Why do you make me watch such terrible injustice?

Violence and destruction, crime and cruelty are spreading everywhere.”

Then the Lord told me,

“I will give you my message in the form of a vision.

Write it on a big clay tablet

and make it easy to read.

At the time I have chosen,

these things will happen.

You can trust what I say about the future.

It may take a long time,

but keep on waiting,

because it will happen.

I don’t like proud people,

but everyone who is faithful will please me and live.”

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

95:1-2, 6-7abcd, 7e-9

R. (8) If today you hear God’s voice, harden not your hearts.

Sing joyful songs to the Lord!

praise the mighty rock

where we are safe.

Come to worship him

with thankful hearts

and songs of praise.

R. If today you hear God's voice, harden not your hearts.

Bow down and worship
the Lord our Creator!
The Lord is our God,
and we are his people,
the sheep he takes care of
in his own pasture.

R. If today you hear God's voice, harden not your hearts.

Listen to God's voice today!
Don't be stubborn and rebel
as your ancestors did
at Meribah and at Massah
out in the desert.
For forty years
they tested God and saw
the things he did.

R. If today you hear God's voice, harden not your hearts.

SECOND READING

Never be ashamed of witnessing to the Lord.

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy

1:6-8

I ask you to make full use of the gift that God gave you
when I placed my hands on you.
Use it well.
God's Spirit does not make cowards out of us.
The Spirit gives us power, love, and self-control.

Don't be ashamed to speak for our Lord.
And don't be ashamed of me,
just because I am in jail for serving him.
Use the power that comes from God
and join with me in suffering for telling the good news.

The word of the Lord.

ALLELUIA

1 Peter 1:25

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The word of the Lord stands for ever;
it is the word given to you, the good news.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

If you had faith!

† A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke 17:5-10

The apostles said to the Lord,
“make our faith stronger!”

Jesus replied”

“If you had faith no bigger than a tiny mustard seed,
you could tell this mulberry tree to pull itself up, roots and all,
and to plant itself in the ocean.

And it would!

“If your servant comes in from plowing or from taking care of the sheep,
would you say, ‘Welcome!’

Come on in and have something to eat’?

No you wouldn’t say that.

You would say, ‘Fix me something to eat.
Get ready to serve me, so I can have my meal.
Then later on you can eat and drink.’

“Servants don’t deserve special thanks
for doing what they are supposed to do.

And that’s how it should be with you.

When you’ve done all you should,
then say, ‘We are merely servants,
and we have simply done our duty.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Cycle C

Prayer:

Dear God,
Please help our faith to grow as large and as strong as a tree.
In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen

Readings:

Habakkuk	1:2-3, 2:2-4
Psalm	95:1-2, 6-7abcd, 7e-9
Second Letter of Paul to Timothy	1:6-8
Luke	17:5-10

Reflection:

The theme for today is faith. Faith means knowing, for sure – without a doubt, that something is real or that something will happen. For example, you know that your parents will take care of you. You don't have to think about it or worry about it. You know that your parents love you. It may be hard to imagine but God loves us even more than our parents do and will care for us even better. Mustard seeds are some of the very smallest seeds but they grow into trees. Jesus tells us that if we have a little faith like the little mustard seed, we will be able to do amazing things! All we have to do is trust in God that God will always care for us so we do not need to worry and can focus on doing what God wants us to do.

Discussion:

1. How do the people who love you, take care of you?
2. How does God take care of you?
3. What great things would you like to do for God? Write the ideas on a blackboard or newsprint.
 - a. Remember that what might seem small to us is great in God's eyes, for example, helping out at home or reading to a younger child.

Activity: The Mustard Seed

Materials Needed: Mustard seeds, glue, paper, coloring and drawing supplies.

Directions:

1. Give each child a piece of paper and a mustard seed. Let them hold the seed to see how small it is.
2. Glue the mustard seed to the middle of the paper and then ask the children to use it as part of a picture they make showing a great thing they want to do for God.