

## Prayers of Intercession

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread, so let us gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God's good creation.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for your holy church in every place and for those who serve following the example of Christ (*rostered and lay leaders may be named*). Help them to live by faith and walk by the light of your gospel. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

For parts of the world ravaged by natural disaster (*especially*): relieve those affected by floods, wildfires, droughts, earthquakes, tornadoes, and hurricanes. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

For every nation and for those entrusted with authority: grant our leaders self-discipline in all things, and inspire them with love for your people. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

## Preparing for Next Week

**Monday** Psalm 3. **Tuesday** (commemoration of Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church, 1226; Theodor Fliedner, renewer of society, 1864) 1 John 5:1-5, 13-21. **Wednesday** Habakkuk 2:12-20. **Thursday** (commemoration of William Tyndale, translator, martyr, 1536) Psalm 111. **Friday** (commemoration of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, pastor in North America, 1787) Numbers 4:34—5:4. **Saturday** Luke 5:12-16. **18th Sunday after Pentecost** 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c; Psalm 111; 2 Timothy 2:8-15; Luke 17:11-19.

CELEBRATE October 2, 2022 (Lectionary 27)

Volume 53, Number 4

CELEBRATE (ISSN 1083-3242, USPS 763-460) is published quarterly by Augsburg Fortress, 411 Washington Avenue North, Third Floor, Minneapolis, MN, 55401. Periodicals postage paid in St. Paul, MN and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to Celebrate, Augsburg Fortress Publishers, P.O. Box 1553, Minneapolis, MN 55440-8730. Printed in U.S.A. Price per weekly part \$4.90 per 100 copies; price in Canada subject to exchange rates. Minimum order 50 copies of each issue; all orders must be in multiples of 50. Copyright © 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts. Readings from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha © 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Prayer of the day, psalm, and readings during the week from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* © 2006, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Refrain music by Dorothy Christopherson. Refrain accompaniment is in *Psalter for Worship, Year C* (Augsburg Fortress, 2006). Please visit our website at [augsburgfortress.org](http://augsburgfortress.org). Lectionary year C.

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Tracks 1 and 2

For victims of violence, abuse, and neglect: heal those who have been harmed and protect those who are vulnerable. For all who are sick (*especially*). God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

For this and every congregation: rekindle your gifts within your people, and inspire councils, committees, and individuals to plan and work together that all may know your love. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

In thanksgiving that you have abolished death, and for the saints who have died (*especially*). Bring us all to eternal life with you. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Gathered together in the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit, gracious God, we offer these and all our prayers to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
**Amen.**



# Celebrate

Sunday, October 2, 2022

17th Sunday after Pentecost

*A little faith goes a long way is Jesus' point in the gospel. A mustard seed's-worth of faith has miraculous potential. The patience, tenacity, and endurance required for the life of faith are the blessings received in holy baptism, holy communion, and the word read and proclaimed in this assembly. Anticipate them. Receive them with thanksgiving.*

## Prayer of the Day

Benevolent, merciful God: When we are empty, fill us. When we are weak in faith, strengthen us. When we are cold in love, warm us, that with fervor we may love our neighbors and serve them for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## First Reading

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4

*Injustice and violence in the time leading up to the Babylonian exile move this prophet to lament: How can a good and all-powerful God see evil in the world and seemingly remain indifferent? God answers by proclaiming that the righteous will live by faith.*

The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw.

<sup>2</sup>O LORD, how long shall I cry for help,  
and you will not listen?  
Or cry to you "Violence!"  
and you will not save?

<sup>3</sup>Why do you make me see wrongdoing  
and look at trouble?  
Destruction and violence are  
before me;  
strife and contention arise.

<sup>4</sup>So the law becomes slack  
and justice never prevails.  
The wicked surround the righteous—  
therefore judgment comes forth  
perverted.

<sup>2:1</sup>I will stand at my watchpost,  
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.  
<sup>2</sup>Then the LORD answered me and  
said:

Write the vision;  
make it plain on tablets,  
so that a runner may read it.  
<sup>3</sup>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.

<sup>4</sup>Look at the proud!  
Their spirit is not right in them,  
but the righteous live by their  
faith.



Com - mit your way to the LORD; put your trust in the LORD.

Do not be provoked by <sup>1</sup> evildoers;

do not be jealous of those <sup>1</sup> who do wrong.

<sup>2</sup>**For they shall soon wither <sup>1</sup> like the grass,  
and like the green grass <sup>1</sup> fade away.**

<sup>3</sup>Put your trust in the LORD <sup>1</sup> and do good;  
dwell in the land and <sup>1</sup> find safe pasture.

<sup>4</sup>**Take delight <sup>1</sup> in the LORD,  
who shall give you your <sup>1</sup> heart's desire. R**

<sup>5</sup>Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust <sup>1</sup> in the LORD,  
and see what <sup>1</sup> God will do.

<sup>6</sup>**The LORD will make your vindication as clear <sup>1</sup> as the light  
and the justice of your case like the <sup>1</sup> noonday sun.**

<sup>7</sup>Be still before the LORD and wait <sup>1</sup> patiently.  
Do not be provoked by the one who prospers,  
the one who succeeds in <sup>1</sup> evil schemes.

<sup>8</sup>**Refrain from anger, leave <sup>1</sup> rage alone;  
do not be provoked; it leads on- <sup>1</sup> ly to evil.**

<sup>9</sup>For evildoers shall <sup>1</sup> be cut off,  
but those who hope in the LORD shall pos- <sup>1</sup> sess the land. R

*This letter written to Timothy is a personal message of encouragement. In the face of hardship and persecution, Timothy is reminded that his faith is a gift of God. He is encouraged to exercise that faith with the help of the Holy Spirit.*

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,

<sup>2</sup>To Timothy, my beloved child:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

<sup>3</sup>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.

<sup>4</sup>Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; <sup>7</sup>for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

<sup>8</sup>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, <sup>9</sup>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, <sup>10</sup>but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. <sup>11</sup>For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>14</sup>Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

## Gospel

Luke 17:5-10

*On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus instructs his followers about the power of faith and the duties of discipleship. He calls his disciples to adopt the attitude of servants whose actions are responses to their identity rather than works seeking reward.*

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" <sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>7</sup>"Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, 'Come here at once and take your place at the table'? <sup>8</sup>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'? <sup>9</sup>Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? <sup>10</sup>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!'"