

**TWENTY-SEVENTH
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

YEAR C

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Dear God,
we believe in you
and in Jesus, who died for us,
and in the Holy Spirit,
who makes us able
to carry on your work.
Sometimes it is not easy
to believe,
and we lose courage.
Be with us always;
strengthen us by your Spirit,
that our faith may turn
the whole world to you.
We make this prayer to you
through Christ our Lord.

FOCUS OF THE READINGS:

The focus of both of our readings is faith. In the first reading, the prophet sets up the question of faith, then gives God's answer, "Be patient." We see from the context that this "patience" means faith. Those who have been evil, having a lack of faith, will fall. But those with faith will live. The message is clear—keep faith even in the midst of adverse conditions.

The parable of the mustard seed, so familiar to us, is a dramatic description of the power of faith. The contrast between the tiny seed and the power of the action (changing the location of a tree!) puts into sharp focus the faith that we are capable of having and which the Lord proposes as the norm. But faith is a gift, and so

FIRST READING: *Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4*

A reading from the prophet Habakkuk.

Habakkuk made this prayer to God:

"Dear God,
I have been crying for help for so long.
Why haven't you heard me?
There is so much violence all around me.
Won't you save me?"

And God said to Habakkuk,

"Your prayers will be answered.
The peace you want will come.
It may seem to you that it is coming too slowly.
But, be patient, wait for it.
It will come.
And then, those who have been evil will fall,
but those who have had faith will live."

The Word of the Lord.


RESPONSE: *Psalm 95*

RESPONSE:



(Leader) 1. Lis - ten to the voice of God, o - pen your hearts_ and lis - ten.
(All) 2. We will hear the voice of God, o - pen our hearts_ and lis - ten.

VERSES:



1. God, you made ev - 'ry - thing. You take care of all you made.
2. God, you made us as well. You, our Shep - herd, we, your sheep.

to Response

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

*VERSE:
Plant your Word_ in our hearts._ Let it bear_ fruit in us!_

*Keep singing Alleluia line. Add the verse with a solo or small group.

GOSPEL: *Luke 17:5-6*

A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

One day the disciples said to Jesus,

“Help us to believe more.
Make our faith stronger.”

Jesus said to them,

“If your faith were only the size of a tiny seed,
like a mustard seed,
you would be able to say to this tree,

‘Pull yourself up out of the ground,
and plant yourself in the ocean,’

and the tree would do it!”

The Gospel of the Lord.

we must pray for it, “Make our faith stronger.”

Plant your word in our hearts. We will open our hearts and listen.

REFLECTING ON THE READINGS WITH CHILDREN:

In reflecting on this Gospel, two dangers must be avoided:

- A wonder woman or superman approach to faith.
- Minimizing the parable as a harmless figure of speech.

Help the children see that our lives and the lives around us can be different if we live by faith. Explore the parable with the children. Explain to them that Jesus often used nature to teach us. Also, Jesus often used big contrasts to “wake us up.” Changing the location of trees is not what Jesus is talking about. He is talking about changing the hearts and lives of people.

- What will we accomplish by using our faith?
- How do people with faith in Jesus live?
- How does that change our world?

You might end the reflections with time for all to pray that our faith be made stronger.