



Church At Home
St. Timothy's Lutheran Church – Pembroke, Ontario
Pentecost 17 **October 5, 2025**

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

The Holy Gospel: Luke 17:5-10

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you O Lord.

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" 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. "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'? 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'? Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? 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!'"

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you O Christ.

Homily

I greet you in the name of Jesus, our risen Saviour. Amen.

If you have been following my messages over the years, you may have noticed that many times I come down hard on the disciples. You may remember me saying: "They just don't get it!" Well today it seems that they do get it and get it too well.

Jesus has been asking some fairly extraordinary things to the disciples of late. I mean remember the past few weeks: give away their possessions, to forgive those who wrong you, take up his cross and more. No wonder they ask for more faith. They have to feel inadequate to the tasks around them, insufficient to the challenges, unable to imagine accomplishing any of what Jesus is asking. And so today, I am feeling for the twelve because it is not a comfortable spot to be in.

It is only natural to ask for help when we don't know what we are doing or going down a different pathway. Let's face it; we don't want to make a mistake; make a mess of a good situation; or even just screw up. The disciples recognize this and ask for help; they ask for more faith. You'd think Jesus would be pleased; his vest buttons popping for being asked for his help and grant their request. But he doesn't. Instead, he almost seems to scold them by saying: "If you only had a speck of faith....." Jesus implies they don't have faith even the size of a mustard seed! Is this any way for Jesus to respond, let alone any good teacher to their serious, genuine question?

Maybe Jesus' sharp retort was just what they needed – maybe just what we need – to direct them to the presence of God all around them and the totally sufficient faith they already have.

I think we all have been in this position at one time in our life: as a parent, as a supervisor, as a team leader or just as a co-worker – I know I have. The person comes with a problem or a question and we help them to solve it. Two days later, the person comes with the identical question and we help them solve it by using the same approach. This happens again and again and again. After being asked to help solve the same problem time and time again what do we do? From experience, I suggested that we had seen this problem before, told them they had the skills to solve the problem and empowered them to do so. Now, just do it! I have faith in you!

Here is where I see the problem lies; the disciples don't understand faith and so often neither do we. We too, feel overwhelmed at times by the demands placed on us to be "good Christians". We feel we are just not up to the task and question what we signed up for. Jesus tells the disciples and us that we have all the faith we need.

What is faith?

Faith is trust, belief, conviction, relationship. It is a gift of God. God gives us faith that we may be in relationship with God.

The harder question the disciples and we ask is, "How can I increase my faith?"

If we return to the gospel, Jesus points out that servants aren't invited to the table with the landowner; they eat when their work is done. Nor do they deserve great thanks simply for doing their job; they just do it! Maybe that is what faith is like; faith being an action word. Jesus seems to say – simply – the willingness to do what needs to be done. In other words, faith is not something we hold onto as a scarce commodity, spent, or added to. Faith isn't heroic. Faith is simply and humbly doing what needs to be done, big or small, great or mundane, just because it needs to be done. Faith is found in the ordinary and everyday acts of doing what needs to be done, responding to the needs around us, and caring for the people who come our way.

Do you see what I am trying to say? Jesus points to the many unnoticed things that we do each and every day as being faithful!

Showing up for work and doing a good job.

Listening when someone needs to talk.

Getting the kids off to school.

Sitting with someone at Fellowship who looks like they need a friend.

Volunteering at the Food Bank or helping to serve meals to the homeless.

Balancing the books for a local community group.

Cooking supper.

Praying for a neighbour who is having a hard time.

And that's the point, none of these activities are any big deal, yet they occupy much of our lives. And how many of us would consider them to be acts of faith?

Which brings me to the index card that I handed out last week and for you to pin on the bulletin board. What did you do with your Toonie?

I suspect it was something simple and maybe at the spur of the moment reaction. That's how faith grows too! Simple acts done at the spur of the moment. And in the end we think nothing of it yet it says a lot to others. They are.....simple acts of faith but so much more.

My Friends in Christ. God continues to love and care for this world through the simple, ordinary, even mundane acts of faithfulness you are already doing. Contrary to our feelings that they are not enough or important enough or heroic enough; God says they are enough and your faith is more than adequate to the task at hand. And for this, the heavens are rejoicing. Amen.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit let us pray as Jesus taught us.....

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious unto you,
The Lord look upon you with favour and give you (+) peace. Amen.

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STTLC Communiqué

In Our Prayers Today.....

Lila Martinat, Irlavere Tubbe, Bobby Keuhl, Adele Krieger, Tracy Schori, and Christa Reitlingshoefer.

The Altar Care Committee will be decorating the chancel for the Thanksgiving celebrations. If you have any vegetables, fruits, etc., to donate, please bring them to the church on or before noon, Friday, October 10th. Thank you.

The Thanksgiving Food Drive Challenge in support of St. Joseph's Food Bank will begin Sunday, October 12th and continue through to Sunday, October 19th. A table will be set up at the back of the church to receive your items. Let's see how many items can be collected on these two Sundays! Please ensure that you check the expiry dates on all donated items. The Witness Committee thanks you in advance for your generosity in providing to those in need.

