

New Hope Lutheran Church

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October 2, 2022

The 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Coming Events

- Oct 2 2:00 Kammari **Impola Rm**
Kammari starts with a Bible study from 2-2.30pm and continues from 2.30pm on with a coffee and pulla (2\$). You can come and have a coffee, even if you are not attending the Bible study. Welcome all to have coffee and meet friends!
- Oct 3 10 – 1 Kahvi Time **Regent St.**
- Oct 6 6:30 Finnish Bible Study **Zoom**
- Oct 9 10:00 Finnish Worship Service † **Voima Hall**
2:00 English Worship Service † **Regent St**
- Oct 11 2:00 Kammari **Impola Room**
7:00 Eng Bible Study **Zoom**

If you wish to take part in the Finnish Zoom Bible Study please contact Pastor Johanna.

If you wish to take part in the English Zoom Bible Study please contact Pastor Charlie.

In our prayers Eero, Ron, Ruth, Marilyn.

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.

Psalm 37:1 – 9

- ¹ Do not fret because of those who are evil or be envious of those who do wrong;
² for like the grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die away.
³ Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.
⁴ Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.
⁵ Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this:
⁶ He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn, your vindication like the noonday sun.
⁷ Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; do not fret when people succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.
⁸ Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret—it leads only to evil.
⁹ For those who are evil will be destroyed, but those who hope in the LORD will inherit the land.

First Reading “**Habakkuk 1:1 – 4, 2:1 – 4**”

¹ The prophecy that Habakkuk the prophet received.
Habakkuk’s Complaint
² How long, LORD, must I call for help, but you do not listen? Or cry out to you, “Violence!” but you do not save? ³ Why do you make me look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrongdoing? Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife, and conflict abounds. ⁴ Therefore the law is paralyzed, and justice never prevails. The wicked hem in the righteous, so that justice is perverted.

¹ I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts; I will look to see what he will say to me, and what answer I am to give to this complaint.

The LORD’s Answer

² Then the LORD replied: “Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it. ³ For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay. ⁴ “See, the enemy is puffed up; his desires are not upright— but the righteous person will live by his faithfulness.

Second Reading “**2 Timothy 1:1 – 14**”

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, in keeping with the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, ² To Timothy, my dear son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. ³ I thank God, whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. ⁴ Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵ I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. ⁶ For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. ⁷ For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. ⁸ So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God. ⁹ He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, ¹⁰ but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. ¹¹ And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher. ¹² That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet this

is no cause for shame, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day. ¹³ What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴ Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel **“Luke 17:5 – 10”**

Glory to you, O Lord.

The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” He replied, “If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it will obey you. “Suppose one of you has a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Will he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, ‘Come along now and sit down to eat’? Won’t he rather say, ‘Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink’? Will he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do? So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.’”
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

By Debbie Fräntilä

In Luke 17:1-4 Jesus gives the disciples instructions -

He said to his disciples, “Hard trials and temptations are bound to come, but too bad for whoever brings them on! Better to wear a concrete vest and take a swim with the fishes than give even one of these dear little ones a hard time! Be alert. If you see your friend going wrong, correct him. If he responds, forgive him. Even if it’s personal against you and repeated seven times through the day, and seven times he says, ‘I’m sorry, I won’t do it again,’ forgive him.”

The disciples are a bit overwhelmed with their given task and react by asking for more faith. I have never thought about faith as being quantitative. Jesus responds by saying “There is no ‘more’ or ‘less’ in faith.” Basically, he tells them that as long as they had faith they could accomplish great things – such as getting a sycamore tree to jump in a lake. He also tells them it is a natural for a servant to operate in expected parameters – to do what is expected of them. So, what is that all about?

Author Rachel Evans writes, “**I wonder if Jesus is telling the disciples that if they have enough faith to be faithful, then that is enough.** Faith, after all, is a gift. And we don’t have any business telling God we don’t have enough, when God always gives us enough to be faithful. **God always gives us enough to do something useful, to “make it work.”** She continues by asking “How easy it is to think we don’t have enough! These guys were in the very presence of Jesus and *still* they wanted more!

We’re not so unlike the disciples are we? How often we tell ourselves: “If I only had more faith, I could...”

Do something important
Do something impressive
I’d never struggle with doubt.
I wouldn’t be so scared.
I’d finally be appreciated.
I’d finally know I’m right.
It would finally all make sense.

But – is our desire for more... our desire to do great things the same as telling a sycamore tree to go jump in the lake?

Why would we want to tell a sycamore tree to jump in the lake – other than showing what we can accomplish. The desire for more can be a distraction that stops us from doing what we are really called to do.

Evans references Theresa of Lisieux, whose famous “little way” has inspired generations of Christians to honor God by being faithful in the little things...by taking this faith thing one step at a time. Theresa talked often about the smallness of her own faith. But she never questioned God’s goodness or fairness in giving her what she had. She never demanded more because she knew she had been given enough to be faithful. She’d been given enough to obey.

“God would never inspire me with desires which cannot be realized,” she said, **“so in spite of my littleness, I can hope to be a saint.”**

Theresa (who indeed become St. Theresa), Peter and Paul, Mary Magdalene, St. Francis, Dr. King, Tessa of Calcutta, Nelson Mandela, you and I—**we all share the same Master. And that master has given us all the faith we need to be faithful.**

Prayers

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.

We pray for your holy church in every place and for those who serve following the example of Christ. 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: 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.**

For victims of violence, abuse, and neglect: heal those who have been harmed and protect those who are

vulnerable. For all who are sick. 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.**

In thanksgiving that you have abolished death, and for the saints who have died. 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, who taught us to pray.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. **Amen.**