

October 5, 2025

17th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Having a Mustard Seed Faith

Jesus responds to the apostles' plea—"Increase our faith!" (Luke 17:5)—with a correction and redirection. "You don't actually need more faith; even the smallest amount is enough to transform the world—to grow trees in the sea. All I'm asking is for you to serve faithfully."

Each reading mentions faith in a different context, and yet there is a commonality to them. Faith, or faithfulness, is not about possessing or professing certain knowledge or skills. Instead, it is about having holy imagination that trusts in God's power of transformation and resurrection. The righteous don't live by faith by ignoring the suffering and injustice of the world around them. Rather, they persevere in the midst of that suffering because they imagine a world that is different and believe that God is at work, often in hidden ways, bringing it about. The faith that first dwelled within Lois and Eunice is a way of seeing and being in the world that is grounded in the death and resurrection of Jesus—in God's commitment to abolishing death and bringing life.

Interactive adventures like Dungeons and Dragons or other role-playing games bring a group of people together for collaborative storytelling. Each person's imagination, gifts, and personality bring something important to the table. The world the group can imagine together is more wonderful and interesting than anything a person could do alone. How could the church be a similar community of collaborative storytelling, firmly rooted in God's character of steadfast love and grace, and built up by the imaginations of all the faithful?

Jesus invites his closest followers to imagine the seemingly impossible: a tree uprooted and replanted in the sea, limitless forgiveness, a master who serves. What kind of holy imagination does having faith the size of a mustard seed mean for God's people today? What places of resurrection and transformation is God inviting us to see? How might a faithful imagination be so alive within us that we can easily share it with our children and grandchildren? How many ways we can receive this gift of faith, given graciously in Christ, when we realize we don't have to manufacture it for ourselves!

First St. John Lutheran Church

2471 Seaman Street

Toledo, Ohio 43605

419-691-7222

Email: office@firststjohn.com

Web site: www.firststjohn.com

Rev. Jerald K. Rayl, Pastor

Dr. Anthony Pattin, Church Musician
Jo-Anne Chrysochoos, Director of Music
Cheri Sergent, Bell Choir, Director
(* * * *), Office Manager



Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community

October 5, 2025 - 10:30 am

October 5, 2025

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome to First St. John Lutheran Church! We offer two services with Sunday School for youth and adults and catechism (starting soon). Our regular Sunday schedule is:

8:00 am	Early Worship
9:15 am	Adult Sunday School
9:15 am	J.A.M. Sunday School
10:30 am	Late Worship
2:00 pm	Chapel Communion

(2nd Sunday of the month)

LIVESTREAM AND RECORDED WORSHIP: We livestream the service on our church website at www.firststjohn.com. Also, the service will be recorded and published to the website

SMILE! YOU'RE ON CAMERA: Please remember you may be on camera during the livestream and the recording of the service.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Please remember to silence your cell phone before church begins. Thanks!

NURSERY is provided during second service, downstairs in the basement of the church. A diaper changing table is available in the ladies restroom in the basement of the church.

RESTROOMS are in the church basement. Go to the Narthex (lobby) and take either set of steps to the basement hallway. The ladies room is at one end, and the men's room is at the other.

FLOWERS: If you would like to sign up for altar flowers, there is a book in the lounge. Or, you can call the church office during the week to check on availability.

MEMORIALS: If you wish to give a memorial in honor or memory of a loved one, you may mail it in or pick up a memorial card in the church office.

PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY URGENT NEEDS!

Please purchase full size items.

dish soap*	shampoo, child	disposable razors
paper towel*	laundry soap*	toothbrush, adult
toilet paper	fabric softener sheets	toothpaste, adult
tissues	body lotion*	sanitary pads*
deodorant	body soap*	band aids
shampoo, adult		

**denotes high need item*

This is a list of the items that will provide a month's worth of hygiene supplies to families or individuals in our neighborhood to help them stay clean and healthy. We always welcome any donations from our congregation members.

If you would like to donate items, please donate only full size products as sample sizes will not last a month. If you would prefer a Pantry volunteer to do the shopping for you, we welcome monetary donations. Please make out checks to First St. John Lutheran Church and write Personal Needs Pantry on the memo line.



We are baptized in Christ Jesus, we are baptized in his death; that as Christ is raised victorious, we might live a brand new life. And if we have been united in a dreadful death like his, we will all be reunited, for he lives.

In the water and the witness, in the breaking of the bread, in the waiting arms of Jesus who is risen from the dead, God has made a new beginning from the ashes of our past; in the losing and the winning we hold fast.

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us share the peace of the Lord.

The congregation may greet one another by shaking hands, fist bumping, or any other form of greeting with the words, "Peace be with you." We conclude the sharing of the peace by singing:

Glory be to God the Father, glory be to Christ the Son, glory to the Holy Spirit, ever three and ever one; as it was in the beginning, glory now resounds again in a song that has no ending. Amen

The Greeting and Prayer

P: The Lord be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. 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.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated)

Announcements

Introduction

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.

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.

Blessing

P: The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, (+) bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn "Lord Dismiss Us with Your Blessing" No. 545

Dismissal

P: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Dr. Anthony Pattin

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

ELDERS

Tom Gaskins
Terry Ruedy

READER

Sound Board

Mark Ackerman

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

(Please be seated)

The Offering

Musical Offertory “ ” *FSJ Chancel Choir*
Jo-Anne Chrysochoos, Music Director

(Please stand)

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray. Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Pastoral Prayer *(Each petition concludes with this response)*

P: God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

(After all the petitions, the prayer concludes with the following:)

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

The Lord's Prayer *(prayed by all)*

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,

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 .

¹The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw.

²O LORD, how long shall I cry for help,
and you will not listen?
Or cry to you “Violence!”
and you will not save?

³Why do you make me see wrongdoing
and look at trouble?

Destruction and violence are before me;
strife and contention arise.

⁴So the law becomes slack,
and justice never prevails.

The wicked surround the righteous;
therefore judgment comes forth perverted.

^{2:1}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.

²Then the LORD answered me and said:

Write the vision;
make it plain on tablets,
so that a runner may read it.

³For 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.

⁴Look at the proud!
Their spirit is not right in them,
but the righteous live by their faithfulness.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 37:1-9, Congregation responds in BOLD.

¹Do not fret because of the wicked;

do not be envious of wrongdoers,

²**for they will soon fade like the grass
and wither like the green herb.**

³Trust in the LORD and do good;
live in the land and enjoy security.

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 act.
- ⁶ **He will make your vindication shine like the light
and the justice of your cause like the noonday.**
- ⁷ Be still before the LORD, and wait patiently for him;
do not fret over those who prosper in their way,
over those who carry out evil devices.
- ⁸ **Refrain from anger and forsake wrath.
Do not fret—it leads only to evil.**
- ⁹ For the wicked shall be cut off,
but those who wait for the LORD shall inherit the land.

SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 1:1-14

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.

- ¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,
- ² To Timothy, my beloved child:
Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. ³ 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. 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, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. ⁶ For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands, ⁷ for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.
- ⁸ 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, in the power of God, ⁹ who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace, and this grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, ¹⁰ but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. ¹¹ For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, ¹² 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 the deposit I have entrusted to him. ¹³ Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴ Guard the good deposit entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

Gospel Acclamation (sung by the congregation)



Gospel Announcement

P: The Gospel according to St. Luke, Chapter 17.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 16:19-31

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.

- ⁵ The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” ⁶ 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.”
- ⁷ “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?’ ⁸ 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?’ ⁹ Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? ¹⁰ 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!’”

Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON

Pastor Rayl

Sermon Hymn

“How Firm A Foundation”

No. 796

(Please stand)

Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.