

## Order of Worship for 10-2-22

### Prelude:

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

**Opening Hymn: “Faith and Truth and Life Bestowing” - Hymn #584**

### Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C: If we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

P: Almighty and most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed--for we are unworthy servants. We truly deserve Your wrath and punishment. But we pray You, for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your obedient and faithful Son, increase our faith, that we may rise to live before You in righteousness and true holiness.**

P: Jesus Christ abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. For His sake, in His name, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins.

**C: Amen.**

### Service of the Word

#### Entrance Psalm

P: I hope for Your salvation, O Lord,

**C: and I do Your commandments.**

P: I rejoice at Your word

**C: like one who finds great spoil.**

P: Seven times a day I praise You

**C: for Your just and righteous decrees.**

P: Great peace have those who love Your law;

**C: nothing can make them stumble.**

P: My soul keeps Your testimonies;

**C: I love them exceedingly.**

**ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P: I hope for Your salvation, O Lord,

**C: and I do Your commandments.**

#### Prayer of the Day

P: O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, by Your grace hear the prayers of Your Church. Grant that those things which we ask in faith we may receive through Your bountiful mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **Hymn of Praise: “Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs” - Hymn #812**

### **The Old Testament Lesson: Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4**

R: The oracle that Habakkuk the prophet saw. O LORD, how long shall I cry for help, and You will not hear? Or cry to You “Violence!” and You will not save? Why do You make me see iniquity, and why do You idly look at wrong? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise. So the law is paralyzed, and justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; so justice goes forth perverted. ...

I will take my stand at my watchpost and station myself on the tower, and look out to see what He will say to me, and what I will answer concerning my complaint.

And the LORD answered me: “Write the vision; make it plain on tablet so he may run who reads it. For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end—it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay. “Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith.”

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **The Epistle Lesson: 2 Peter 3:3-9**

R: Know this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. They will say, “Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation.” For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **The Holy Gospel – Luke 17:1-10**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 17<sup>th</sup> chapter.

#### **C: Glory to You, O Lord**

P: And [Jesus] said to His disciples, “Temptations to sin are sure to come, but woe to the one through whom they come! It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were cast into the sea than that he should cause one of these little ones to sin. Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, ‘I repent,’ you must forgive him.”

The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” And the Lord said, “If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.

“Will any one of you who has a servant plowing or keeping sheep say to him when he has come in from the field, ‘Come at once and recline at table’? Will he not rather say to him, ‘Prepare supper for me, and dress properly, and serve me while I eat and drink, and afterward you will eat and drink’? Does he thank the servant because he did what was commanded? So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.’”

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**Sermon Hymn:** “*We Walk by Faith, and Not by Sight*” –**Hymn #720**

**Sermon:** “*Hanging in There*” - **Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4**

Gas prices may have gone down a little, but we are told by many experts that we may soon undergo a great recession and even food shortages. The war goes on in Ukraine which brings the threat of possible nuclear war. Politics has always been ugly, but think of what it will be like for the mid-terms in November.

Listen to what Habakkuk wrote and see if it sounds anything like our world today:

How long, O LORD, must I call for help, but You do not listen? Or cry out to You, “Violence!” but You do not save? Why do You make me look at injustice? Why do You tolerate wrong? Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife, and conflict abounds . . .

We know little about Habakkuk. He seems to have lived after the Assyrians had wiped out the ten northern tribes of God’s people Israel and soon the Babylonians were about to destroy the remaining kingdom of Judah. The Assyrians invaded in 722 B.C. and the Babylonians conquered in 587 B.C. We are told that the war against terrorism will last a long time, like the cold war which lasted about 40 years. Imagine 130 years of invasions and the threat of war. Think of what all those years of war must have done. It is no wonder that Habakkuk cried out, “How long, O LORD?”

We too are under the threat of invasion. We may not be starving or refugees to another land or overrun by terrorists, but the threat is real. And at that same time other forces, perhaps even more threatening, invade our lives.

What am I talking about? Listen to this description of our world from the late comedian George Carlin:

The paradox of our time in history is that we have taller buildings, but shorter tempers, wider freeways, but narrower viewpoints. We spend more, but have less. We buy. But enjoy less.

We have bigger houses and smaller families, more conveniences, but less time. We have more degrees, but less sense, more knowledge, but less judgment, more experts, yet more problems, more medicines, but less wellness.

We drink too much, smoke too much, spend too recklessly, laugh too little, drive too fast, get too angry, stay up too late, get up too tired, read too little, spend too much time in front of a screen, and pray too seldom.

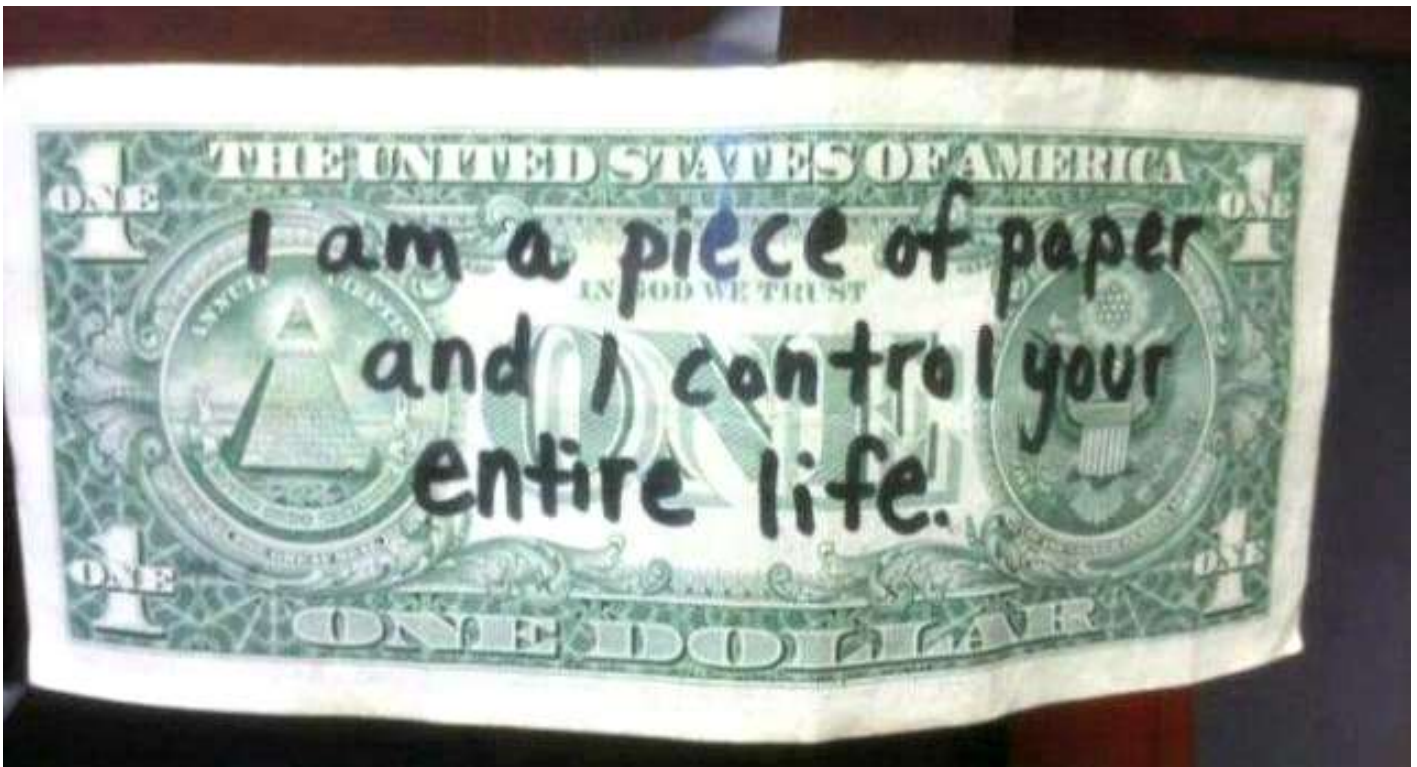
We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values. We talk too much, listen too seldom. We've learned how to make a living, but not a life. We've added years to life, not life to years.

We have been way to the moon and back, but have trouble crossing the street to meet a new neighbor. We conquered outer space, but not inner space. We've done larger things, but not better things. We've cleaned up the air, but polluted the soul. We've conquered the atom, but not our prejudice. We write more, but learn less. We plan more, but accomplish less. We've learned to rush, but not to wait.

We build more computers to hold more information, to produce more copies than ever, but we communicate less and less. These are the times of fast foods and slow digestion, big men and small character, steep profits and shallow relationships. These are the days of two incomes, but more divorce, fancier houses, but broken homes. These are the days of quick trips, disposable diapers, throw away morality, one night stands, overweight bodies, and pills that do everything from cheer to quiet, to kill.

It is a time when there is much in the showroom window and nothing in the stockroom. A time when technology can bring this letter to us, and a time when we can choose to either share this insight—or just delete it.

We are under assault by the materialism and commercialism of our times. The idea is not to logically convince us that we need this or that, but to bombard us with image after image so that we are convinced that we need to buy. This result is often this:



Habakkuk saw threats from foreign invaders. But he also saw threat from within. He complained to God, "Therefore the law is paralyzed and justice never prevails." It was bad

enough that pagan nations threatened the land. But what made the matter worse was that people who were supposed to be in charge were dishonest and unfaithful to God's law. That's what we see in our world. Think of how our families are assaulted. Cursing was rarely done in public; now it is so commonplace that no one seems to care. Families used to be the core of society; now they are breaking apart. People had respect for the church; now churches are seen as being out of touch with reality. Like Habakkuk we are as threatened from within our culture as we are from outside terrorists.

Usually the prophetic books of the Bible begin with the words, "The Word of God came unto such and such . . ." In contrast Habakkuk begins with the complaint, "How long, O LORD must I call for help, but You do not listen?" Habakkuk may seem brash talking to God that way. But the point is that he was not looking the other way when people went astray from God. Nor should we. When we see how we are under assault by a world that wants to trap us in "things", then we too should be asking, "How long, O LORD?"

God gave to Habakkuk a list of "woes." He said, "Woe to him who piles up stolen goods and makes himself wealthy by extortion!" "Woe to him who builds up his realm with unjust gain!" "Woe to him who builds a city with bloodshed and establishes a town by crime!" "Woe to him who gives drink to his neighbors, pouring it from the wineskin until they are drunk!" "Woe to him who says to wood, 'Come to life!' Or to lifeless stone, 'Wake up!'" All of them will get their due." But when?

We may look in this life for world peace, justice for the oppressed, and everyone living in democratic freedom. But the fact of the matter is that there will always seem to be as much evidence that seems to convince people that God is not there as there is evidence to convince us that He is.

That is why God tells Habakkuk:

The revelation awaits the appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and not delay. See he is puffed up; his desires are not upright—but the righteous will live by his faith.

We walk by faith. It is not that in every moment in our lives we are going to see clear evidence that God is there—that He is going to zap all the bad guys and reward us with easy lives. As we are sitting in a hospital waiting room, going through a divorce, trying to work out a relationship with a man or woman, or wondering on Sunday morning where our children are, we need to live by faith, not by what makes clear sense to us.

A family was on a cruise off the coast of Alaska. As they sailed into Glacier Bay, one of the children noticed how the ice floes went in the direction of the current, but the icebergs went the opposite direction. They asked the captain about it. He told them, "The floes are carried by the currents on the surface; but the icebergs, which are much deeper in the water, are carried on by deeper currents which cannot be seen."

We stand on the "surface" like Habakkuk and ask, "How long, O LORD, must I call for help but you do not listen?" From where we are God can seem to have forgotten us or that He is irrelevant. But in His Word God leads us by "deeper currents"—by the faith God has given to us. And as we look in those "deep currents," we see the rock, Christ Jesus, on whom we base

our faith. We can know that in the end God will put an end to evil. His justice will prevail. But even more His mercy will conquer as he takes us to be with Him forever.

The evidence that Habakkuk saw all seemed to point to a God who was not there. But as he poured out his frustrations, God strengthened his faith. Habakkuk trusted in the promises of God that we know have already been fulfilled in Jesus. That faith led Habakkuk to conclude:

Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vine, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD. I will be joyful in God my Savior.

God grant us that faith.

**Nicene Creed:**

**Prayer of the Church:**

P: Lord, in Your mercy

**C: Hear our prayer.**

**Sharing Our Ministry:**

**Offering and Voluntary:**

### **Service of the Sacrament**

**Preface:**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them up to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**C: It is right and proper so to do.**

P: It is truly good, right, and proper that we should in all times and in all places give thanks to You, almighty God, everlasting Father for You have assured us in Your Son, Christ Jesus, that all Your promises will come true. Even though we may have to wait, we can have the confidence that because He came into our world, He will also come again to make all things right. Therefore with angels and archangels and all the host of heaven we laud and magnify Your holy name evermore praising You and saying . . .

**ALL: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving:**

P: Blessed are You O Lord, King of the Universe for You have sent Your Son, Christ Jesus into this world to die on the cross with all the sin that messes us this world. He rose on Easter so that we can trust that all Your promises to us are true. Send Your Holy Spirit into our lives that we come to Christ's supper believing that He gives us His true body and blood as His last will

and testament, granting us the forgiveness of sins. hear us as we pray in His name and as He taught us . . .

**The Lord's Prayer:**

**The Words of Our Lord:**

**The Peace:**

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

**C: Amen.**

**Distribution:**

**Hymns:** *"By Grace I'm Saved"* - **Hymn #566**

*"Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord"* - **Hymn #637**

**Prayer After Communion:**

P: Our Lord Jesus, You have endured the doubts and foolish questions of every generation. Forgive us for trying to be judge over You, and grant us the confident faith to acknowledge You as Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**Blessing:** (Pastor)

**C: Amen.**

**Closing Hymn:** *"Jesus, Lead Thou On"* - **Hymn #718**

**Postlude:**