

Sunday Message

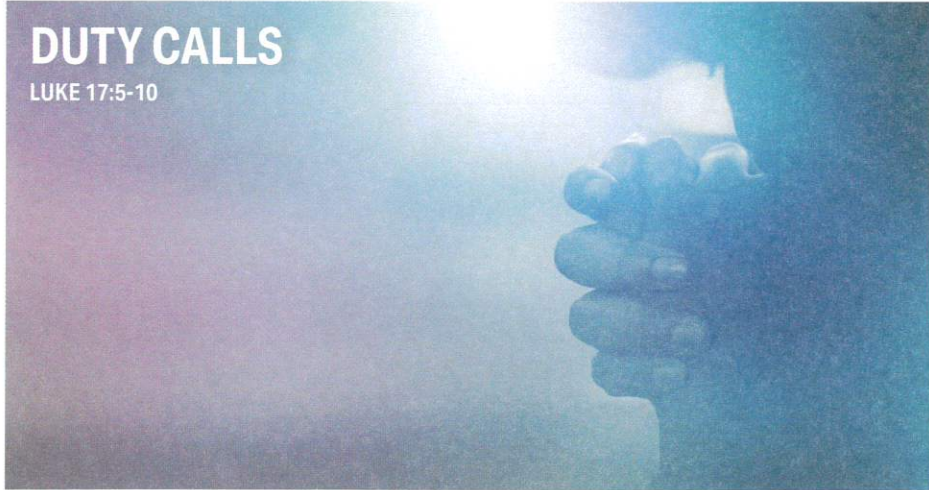
27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year C • 5 October 2025 • Psalter Week 3

DUTY CALLS

LUKE 17:5-10



When Jesus or the writers of the New Testament talk about faith, they don't mean simply believing a set of statements such as we find in the Creed. Faith in the biblical sense means the kind of trust you have in someone that makes you risk everything to follow them.

This is the kind of faith the disciples ask of Jesus as they make their way to Jerusalem. Jesus replies that even if their faith were the size of a mustard seed, it could do great things. In the Gospels, the mustard seed is an example of something very tiny that possesses great potential for growth. Indeed, St Matthew says that faith the size of a mustard seed moves mountains (Matthew 17:20). Whether Jesus spoke about mountains or mulberry trees isn't important. What is important is how he challenges his followers to have the kind of faith that will make us aspire to do things that might seem beyond our ordinary capacity.

Jesus then uses a parable to describe what is expected of servants. The situation he depicts would have been familiar to his audience, a medium-sized farmer who can afford to employ a single worker as a kind of jack-of-all-trades. The work would have included working in the fields and also helping around the house. It would be unthinkable for someone who employed such a servant to prepare the servant's dinner and wait on the servant at table. It would have been the other way around. Jesus applies the parable directly to his disciples. They have no right to expect special treatment for doing what is expected of them – they are simply servants of the Kingdom of God.

We could say that today's Gospel is about two of the basic attitudes that should characterise the disciple of Jesus. The first is the need for a strong faith and trust that won't be daunted even by things that look impossible. Saints are people who don't take no for an answer when they face great obstacles. The second is the need for an attitude of humility that doesn't expect to be thanked simply for doing what is required. It is the direct opposite of the attitude of the Pharisee who expected public recognition for every act of piety. ■

SAY

Repeat the words of the apostles in today's Gospel. Say slowly and prayerfully: "Lord, increase our faith."

PRAY

God gives faith to all who ask for it. Pray for the light of faith and for the strength to live out its implications.

LEARN

Real faith is not just assent to a list of teachings. It is belief in a person. It is a deep relationship with God who is revealed to us in Jesus.

The gift of faith is the greatest treasure one can possess.

To live the Gospel is to do our duty.

REFLECT

Sometimes we can be tempted to think we deserve credit for doing our Christian duty. We go to Mass regularly, we contribute financially to the Church, we say our prayers, we try our best to live the Gospel every day. We consider ourselves to be good Catholics. So, when we think of all those who have fallen away from the practice of the faith, or have lost the faith altogether, we might conclude we deserve recognition, some kind of reward. Surely, God is mightily pleased with us and will thank us for our faithfulness.

But what does Jesus say in today's Gospel? "When you have done all that you were commanded, say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.'"

What Jesus is saying is simple but not very comforting. No worker, no teacher, no student, no parent expects special recognition simply for doing what is expected of them. The same applies to his followers. He is reminding us that we are merely servants, and therefore should never expect a special reward or honour or bonus or pat on the back for doing what as Christians we are called to do anyway. We shouldn't expect to be congratulated simply for fulfilling our baptismal promises. It's like rewarding someone just for turning up for work.

Jesus is reminding us that we have received something precious, to be treasured – the gift of faith. This is no ordinary gift. To live a life of faith is merely to do our duty. That will bring its own rewards. ■

DO

Think about what your faith means to you. Why do you continue to practise your faith when so many others have given it up? What difference does it make to your day-to-day living?



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*Within your will, O Lord, all things are established,
and there is none that can resist your will.
For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth,
and all that is held within the circle of heaven;
you are the Lord of all.*

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
who in the abundance of your kindness
surpass the merits and the desires of those who entreat you,
pour out your mercy upon us
to pardon what conscience dreads
and to give what prayer does not dare to ask.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

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

A reading from the Prophet Habakkuk.

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.

And the LORD answered me:

'Write the vision;
make it plain on tablets,
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.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 95(94):1-2. 6-7b. 7c-9. R. 7c. 8a

**R: O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts.'**

1. Come, let us ring out our joy to the LORD;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come into his presence, giving thanks;
let us hail him with a song of praise. **R.**
2. O come; let us bow and bend low.
Let us kneel before the LORD who made us,
for he is our God, and we the people,
the people of his pasture, the flock of his hand. **R.**
3. O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your forebears put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **R.**

SECOND READING 2 Timothy 1:6-8. 13-14

A reading from the Second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy.

Beloved: I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, for God gave us a spirit not of fear, but of power and love and self-control. Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God.

Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL 1 Peter 1:25

R: Alleluia, alleluia.

The word of the Lord remains for ever
and this word is the good news that was preached to you.

R: Alleluia.

GOSPEL Luke 17:5-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

At that time: 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 ploughing 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 afterwards 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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, O Lord, we pray,
the sacrifices instituted by your commands
and, through the sacred mysteries,
which we celebrate with dutiful service,
graciously complete the sanctifying work
by which you are pleased to redeem us.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*The Lord is good to those who hope in him,
to the soul that seeks him.*

Or

*Though many, we are one bread, one body,
for we all partake of the one Bread and one Chalice.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant us, almighty God,
that we may be refreshed and nourished
by the Sacrament which we have received,
so as to be transformed into what we consume.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.