

First Reader: **A Reading from Habakkuk.**

The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw:

O Lord, how long shall I cry for help,
and you will not listen?
Or cry to you "Violence!"
and you will not save?
Why do you make me see wrong-doing
and look at trouble?
Destruction and violence are before me;
strife and contention arise.
So the law becomes slack
and justice never prevails.
The wicked surround the righteous--
therefore judgment comes forth perverted.

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.

Then the Lord answered me and said:

Write the vision;
make it plain on tablets,
so that a runner may read it.
For 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.
Look at the proud!
Their spirit is not right in them,
but the righteous live by their faith.

Reader: **The Word of the Lord.**

People: Thanks be to God.

Leader: **Our response today is a Psalm 37. We will recite the Psalm responsively by whole verse.**

- 1 **Do not fret yourself because of evildoers; ***
 do not be jealous of those who do wrong.
- 2 For they shall soon wither like the grass, *
 and like the green grass fade away.
- 3 **Put your trust in the LORD and do good; ***
 dwelt in the land and feed on its riches.
- 4 Take delight in the LORD, *
 and he shall give you your heart's desire.
- 5 **Commit your way to the LORD and put your trust in him, ***
 and he will bring it to pass.
- 6 He will make your righteousness as clear as the light *
 and your just dealing as the noonday.
- 7 **Be still before the LORD ***
 and wait patiently for him.
- 8 Do not fret yourself over the one who prospers, *
 the one who succeeds in evil schemes.
- 9 **Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; ***
 do not fret yourself; it leads only to evil.
- 10 For evildoers shall be cut off, *
 but those who wait upon the LORD shall possess the land.

Second Reader: **A reading from the Second Letter to Timothy**

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,
To Timothy, my beloved child:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

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. Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. 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. For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

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, relying on the power of God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, 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 what I have entrusted to him. Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

Lector: **The Word of the Lord.**

People: Thanks be to God.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, FORM 6

Leader In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

hold Silence for a moment...

Leader For all people in their daily life and work;

People For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For Donald our president, Greg our governor, and Kirk our mayor; For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for Christ Church, San Augustine; Holy Trinity, Port Neches; and St. John's, Silsbee.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Sean, our Presiding Bishop; for Andy, Jeff, Kai, Hector, and Brian, our Bishops; for Katie, Christine, and Andrew, our priests; for Bill and Charla, our deacons;

For all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

hold brief silence.

Leader Hear us, Lord;

People For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Hold Silence for a moment; the People may add their own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence; The People may add their own remembrances

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

the Celebrant will conclude with a Collect.