

First Reading Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 The Message (MSG)

**1** <sup>1-4</sup> My name is Habakkuk and I am a prophet. I went to God seeking an explanation for the way things are. GOD, how long do I have to cry out for help before you listen? How many times do I have to yell, “Help! Murder! Police!” before you come to the rescue? Why do you force me to look at evil, stare trouble in the face day after day? Anarchy and violence break out, quarrels and fights all over the place. Law and order fall to pieces. Justice is a joke. The wicked have the righteous hamstrung and stand justice on its head.

**2** What’s God going to say to my questions? I’m braced for the worst. I’ll climb to the lookout tower and scan the horizon. I’ll wait to see what God says, how he’ll answer my complaint.

**2-3** And then GOD answered: “Write this. Write what you see. Write it out in big block letters so that it can be read on the run. This vision-message is a witness pointing to what’s coming. It aches for the coming—it can hardly wait! And it doesn’t lie. If it seems slow in coming, wait. It’s on its way. It will come right on time. **4** “Look at that man, bloated by self-importance— full of himself but soul-empty. But the person in right standing before God through loyal and steady believing is fully alive, *really* alive.

Psalm 37:1-9

**1** Do 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.

**3** Trust in the LORD, and do good; so you will 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.

Gospel: Luke 17:5-10.

**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!’”