

## ADVENT MIDWEEK I: The Minor Prophet

# Habakkuk

*Habakkuk was an Old Testament prophet serving just before the Babylonian Exile. He saw the faithless people around him, and the threat of the Chaldeans (Babylonians), and lamented to God.*

*Though the fall of their earthly kingdom seemed like the end of the world, God promised he was working through this to help bring his people to faithful repentance. We in turn are encouraged to trust in God, even in the worst of times. Let us have a patient, yet certain hope that our Savior is coming.*

*This Midweek series is intended to give an overview of Habakkuk, that we all may be equipped to read this book on our own.*

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*Stand*

**Evening Prayer: Service of Light - LSB 243**

*Sit*

**Readings & Responses - see inside pages**

**Hymn - 585: 1-3 Lord Jesus Christ With us Abide**

**Sermon**

*Stand*

**Magnificat Hymn - 933 My Soul Rejoices, My Spirit  
Voices**

**Prayers, Collect, & Lord's Prayer - LSB 249**

*(spoken)*

**Benedicamus & Benediction - LSB 252 (sung)**

**Hymn - 585: 4-6 Lord Jesus Christ With us Abide**

*Postlude*

## First Reading: Habakkuk 1

### *Habakkuk's Lament*

<sup>2</sup>O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not hear? Or cry to you “Violence!” and you will not save?

<sup>3</sup>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.

<sup>4</sup>So the law is paralyzed, and justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; so justice goes forth perverted.

### *God's Response*

<sup>5</sup>“Look among the nations, and see; wonder and be astounded. For I am doing a work in your days that you would not believe if told. <sup>6</sup>For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty nation, who march through the breadth of the earth, to seize dwellings not their own.

<sup>9</sup>They all come for violence, all their faces forward. They gather captives like sand. <sup>10</sup>At kings they scoff, and at rulers they laugh. They laugh at every fortress, for they pile up earth and take it.<sup>11</sup> Then they sweep by like the wind and go on, guilty men, whose own might is their god!”

<sup>12</sup>Are you not from everlasting, O Lord my God, my Holy One? We shall not die. O Lord, you have ordained them as a judgment, and you, O Rock, have established them for reproof.

<sup>13</sup>You who are of purer eyes than to see evil and cannot look at wrong, why do you idly look at traitors and remain silent when the wicked swallows up the man more righteous than he?

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

## Second Reading: Habakkuk 2

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> And the Lord answered me:

“Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it. <sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> “Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith.

### *Woe to the Chaldeans*

<sup>6</sup> Shall not all these take up their taunt against him, with scoffing and riddles for him, and say, “Woe to him who heaps up what is not his own— for how long?— and loads himself with pledges!”

<sup>7</sup> Will not your debtors suddenly arise, and those awake who will make you tremble? Then you will be spoil for them.

<sup>8</sup> Because you have plundered many nations, all the remnants of the peoples shall plunder you, for the blood of man and violence to the earth, to cities and all who dwell in them.

<sup>18</sup> “What profit is an idol when its maker has shaped it, a metal image, a teacher of lies? For its maker trusts in his own creation when he makes speechless idols!

<sup>19</sup> Woe to him who says to a wooden thing, Awake; to a silent stone, Arise! Can this teach? Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver, and there is no breath at all in it.

<sup>20</sup> But the Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him.”

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### **Third Reading: Habakkuk 3**

#### ***Habakkuk's Prayer***

<sup>2</sup> O Lord, I have heard the report of you, and your work, O Lord, do I fear. In the midst of the years revive it; in the midst of the years make it known; in wrath remember mercy.

<sup>5</sup> Before him went pestilence, and plague followed at his heels. <sup>6</sup> He stood and measured the earth; he looked and shook the nations; then the eternal mountains were scattered; the everlasting hills sank low. His were the everlasting ways.

<sup>12</sup> You marched through the earth in fury; you threshed the nations in anger. <sup>13</sup> You went out for the salvation of your people, for the salvation of your anointed. You crushed the head of the house of the wicked, laying him bare from thigh to neck.

#### ***Habakkuk Rejoices in the Lord***

<sup>17</sup> Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls,

<sup>18</sup> Yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. <sup>19</sup> God, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; He makes me tread on my high places.

P: In many and various ways, God spoke to his people of old by the prophets.

**C: But now in these last days, he has spoken to us by His Son.**