

Church of the Divine Love

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PROPER 11

JULY 17, 2022

9:00 A.M.

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn **#423 – Immortal, invisible, God only wise**

Opening Acclamation page 355

Collect for Purity page 355

Gloria page 356

Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

First Lesson: **Genesis 18:1-10a**

Psalm 15

Second Lesson: **Colossians 1:15-28**

Gradual Hymn – **#488 – Be thou my vision**

Gospel: **Luke 10:38-42**

Sermon – The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze

Nicene Creed page 358

Prayers of the People, Form IV page 388

The Confession of Sin page 360

The Peace

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn **#401 – The God of Abraham praise**

Doxology (sung)

The Great Thanksgiving:	
Eucharistic Prayer C	page 369
Sanctus (S-130 in hymnal)	page 362
The Lord's Prayer	page 364
The Breaking of the Bread, Anthem & Prayer	page 337
The Communion of the People	
Communion Hymn – #495 – Hail, thou once despised Jesus!	
Post Communion Prayer	page 365
Prayer for Peace – on insert	
Prayer of St. Francis	page 833
Dismissal Hymn – #711 – Seek ye first	
Dismissal	

Sermon Sunday July 17, 2022

Genesis 18: 1-10; Psalm 15; Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10: 38-42.

Beloveds in Christ,

There have been times when I made a choice, and I knew deep within it was the only choice to be made. It was absolutely the right choice. If I could do it all again, I would make the same choice and do so with thanksgiving and gratitude. There have also been times when I made what I thought was the right choice but can now see there was a better choice to have been made. I would do things differently if I had the chance to choose again. I suspect most of us could say the same thing.

Too often we equate the choice we make, and its subsequent approval or rejection, with our goodness, our worthiness, our acceptableness, our faithfulness, our lovableness. That's what most of history has done with Mary and Martha. Mary made the better choice, Jesus says, and we quickly conclude that we should be like Mary, not Martha. We are to sit and listen rather than be active and busy. Mary is equated with the contemplative life and Martha with the active life and much of Christian history has seen the contemplative life as the more perfect life. That's one reading of this text but is it the only reading, the definitive reading? Is Mary necessarily better, more holy, more loved, more acceptable to Jesus? I don't think this text is really even about Mary and Martha but about us and the choices we make. That does not mean we are to copycat Mary. If Jesus wanted us to do that, why didn't he tell us clearly what that "one thing" is? He could have at least given us the five easy steps to choosing the better part, but he didn't.

Jesus is saying that choices matter. We are always making choices. I wonder how many choices we make each day. Sometimes we choose unconsciously, sometimes quickly and easily other times with great

deliberation and struggle. Some choices are insignificant. They are forgotten the next day. Other choices have great meaning and significance, and the consequences are long lasting. Our choices can shape who we are. They can establish in us patterns and habits of how we see and act, the words we speak, and the ways we relate to each other. Our choices can set a trajectory for our life. Our choices make a difference. In this particular context Mary made the better choice but it was a choice for that time, that place, and those circumstances. Change the setting and Martha's choice might have been the better part. We can see that in Jesus' own life. Sometimes Jesus went off by himself to be alone, silent, still, to pray, to sit and listen, to be present to his Father. At those times he was like Mary. Other times Jesus was active, on the move, in the midst of people, and busy teaching, healing, feeding 5000. On those days he was more like Martha.

This story about Martha and her sister Mary is often used to tell us we need to stop multi-tasking and start doing just one thing at a time. And that's helpful advice. Science tells us that multi-tasking is bad for your brain anyway. Slowing our internal pace allows us to be more receptive to God's still, small voice. It helps us focus our energy and attention in a way that is, in the long run, much more productive and fruitful than the scattershot approach to getting things done. We could accept this as the lesson Jesus is teaching, without going any deeper, and it would do us worlds of good.

It is so important to know who we are and who other people are. If we know what makes us tick and what makes other people tick, we get along better. If we understand where we are coming from and where other people are coming from, we relate better. There is more compassion, more empathy, and more kindness. When Jesus looked at Martha that day in that emotional scene, he saw some red flags, some warning signals, some danger signs, some destructive attitudes within her which were more harmful to Martha herself than to anyone else. Jesus loved Martha. They were good friends and that day, he saw in her some hurtful attitudes that were working in her like spiritual poisons, petty attitudes, which can devastate and destroy the soul. Let's look at these dangerous attitudes which were in Martha. We may find ourselves or someone we know somewhere between the lines. When Jesus looked at Martha that day, he saw deep down inside of her the dangerous attitude resentment, narrowness, and unkindness.

Where was Martha's heart? Was it on the things of God or the things of earth? Where is your heart? Anxiety is produced when we care too much about the wrong things. Anxiety is a good indicator that something is wrong. You can take a pill to lessen it and make it more bearable, but anxiety is speaking to you about the condition of your soul. Jesus was lovingly telling Martha that something was very wrong with her thinking and her soul. Jesus is expressing disapproval and grave concern. There were more important things at the moment than an elaborate meal. Martha was missing the Gospel. Her mind was literally thinking about everything except what it should have been thinking about. Martha was troubled about many things...only one thing is important. Christ's Word. Listening and submitting to the Word of God is the good portion that will not be taken away. Can there be anything more important than complete and undistracted attention to Jesus Christ? Mary was listening to His Word and becoming a disciple. Perhaps Martha's heart was opened as she realized that the things, she had been doing were trivial compared to listening to the words of Christ. The Bible doesn't say but something changed in Martha's heart at some point. Her treasure was changed from earthly things to heavenly things. At some point she got it, and everything clicked.

While we might distinguish between Mary and Martha there is a common theme, presence. Mary and Martha are two ways of being present. Both ways are necessary, faithful, and holy. There is not simply one choice that is to be made for ever and always. We are always to be discerning the one thing needed in this time, this place, these circumstances. What is the better part given our particular situation? How do we be present, show up, to the divine presence that is already and always before us? That's the question. Some days Mary will be our guide and other days Martha will be our guide. Either way we must choose. Some days that choice may mean sitting quietly and listening to the heartbeat of God within us, reading and studying, watching a sunset with our spouse, or praying for the world. Other days it may mean speaking words of hope and encouragement, offering actions of compassion and hospitality, seeking forgiveness, and making amends, or climbing a tree with our child.

What is the one thing needed right now, in this moment? Not forever or what you think will fix all your problems and let you live happy ever after. Just for now. What is the one thing needed that will keep you awake, aware, open, receptive, and present to Christ? Choose that. That is the better part but hold your choice lightly because there will be another choice to be made after that, and another after that one. We choose our way into life, love, relationships, faith, and even salvation, and the choices matter. If so, here's the good news: there is need of only one thing, and if we choose it, no one will ever have the power to take it away. So, let's choose it. Let's learn a hospitality grounded in love, not fear. Let's begin where God's Spirit invites us to begin. At the feet of the One who comes to serve. In the presence of the One who values our rest. Jesus our Host is waiting. **Amen.**

Masks optional with social distance seating

6 PENTECOST	9:00 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II	(also on zoom)
MONDAY	8:00 AM	AA MEETING	
WEDNESDAY	7:00 PM	AL-ANON MEETING	
THURSDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP	
	8:00 PM	AA MEETING	
SATURDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP	
7 PENTECOST	9:00 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II	(also on zoom)

SUPPORT THE FOOD DRIVE – DROP OFF IN THE KITCHEN

	Today	Next Week
Eucharistic Minister	Anthony Giordano	Jess Berbeck
Altar Guild	Roe Prosser	Deb Giordano
	Marie Quatorze	Jess Berbeck

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Give to all who suffer the refreshing waters of your compassion and healing. Make them dwell in the safety of your care even in the midst of all that troubles them. Especially we remember before you:

Art	Harriet Capers	Bob Curley
John Mulligan	Arlene Goodenough	Celeste
Chris Dickson	Kate Jones	Deb P.
Michael Echevarria	John Rocco	Robert Sweat
Martinisi Family	Michael & Family	Warren
Charlotte H.	Bernie Walther	Anthony
Mo (Rachael)	Bill Conklin Sr.	Laura
Anthony Paribello	Barbara Curran	Taylor
Ciara	Gabriel	Aidan
Elodie	Sophia	Del

People of Haiti

Chrissy Neville

Vincent

Maggie & Family

People of Ukraine

Julia

Nathan Treadwell

Bob Lazevnick

Tim

Grace Schinella

Christopher & Family

Help us to speak words of encouragement and offer deeds of kindness to them. Bring us with them, into the unending joy of your kingdom.
Amen

Prayer before Worship

Almighty God, who pours out on all who desire it, the spirit of grace. Deliver us, when we draw near to you, from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind, that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections we may worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn to be sung during the consecration:

Father I adore you,

Lay my life before you,

How I love you.

Repeat twice with second verse starting with Jesus
and third verse starting with Spirit.

Prayer for Peace

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn
but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So
mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that
all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince
of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominions
and glory, now and for ever. Amen