

Church of the Divine Love
SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
PROPER 10
JULY 20, 2025 9:00 AM
HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

A Morning Prayer – on insert

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation 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**

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

Sermon – The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze – printed on insert

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Prayers of the People, Form VI page 392

The Confession page 393

The Peace

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Doxology (sung)

The Great Thanksgiving:

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Sermon Sunday July 20, 2025

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

Sisters and brothers in Christ, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things.”

Given everything that has happened the last couple weeks in Texas, our nation, and the world, not to mention whatever has gone on in our personal lives, those words from Jesus in today's gospel (**Luke 10:38-42**) just might be the gospel understatement of the year.

Many things have left Martha feeling troubled, anxious, and disturbed. She's being pulled in different directions. Her life is in pieces, divided into parts. It's as if there are a thousand different things in her heart and on her mind and she's not able give time, energy, and attention to the “one thing” needed. Maybe she doesn't even know what that “one thing” is. I wonder how many of us here today feel like Martha, “worried and distracted by many things.” I do and I wouldn't be surprised if you do too. Chances are most of us are living a Martha kind of life. It's often what happens when we feel overwhelmed and the plumb line of our life is swinging wildly. What are the many things about which you are worried and distracted today? What is dividing your life into parts and pulling you in different directions? And what are those things doing to you and your relationships?

A few weeks ago, I was talking with a new friend who lives in Spring Valley. He said, “Jean, every driver in Spring Valley is now a distracted driver.” It was one of those simple yet profound statements that has stuck with me. It's not only about driving cars; it's also a metaphor about how we are living. We're

driving through life with distractions. It's not just dangerous, it's exhausting. Martha is a distracted driver, and that's not a criticism of her. When Jesus says to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things," I don't think he's making an accusation, he's making an observation. He's making a diagnosis not a judgment. And when he says, "Mary has chosen the better part" I don't think he is opposing Mary, who sits at his feet and listens, to Martha, who is busy with many tasks. I don't think he is saying that Mary is right and Martha is wrong, or that it's better to sit at his feet and listen than it is to prepare the house and table to welcome a guest. Look at the life of Jesus. He lives on a Mary-Martha spectrum, as do we all. Sometimes Jesus went off by himself to be alone, silent, and still; to sit, pray, and listen; to be present to his Father. Other times Jesus was active, on the move, in the midst of people, and busy teaching, healing, feeding 5000. One is not better or more important than the other. We need both. Jesus isn't making a value judgment on the things that are distracting Martha. He's recognizing what those distractions are doing to her. Think about distraction as dis-traction, the loss of traction. When we're distracted by many things we lose traction and our wheels are spinning. We're not getting anywhere. In what ways have you lost traction in your life today? And how will you get it back? Being more focused, paying better attention, rearranging our schedule, cutting down the to do list, getting some help, self-medicating, avoiding, or complaining are our usual remedies. And so, it is for Martha. Martha thinks if Mary would just help, get up and do some work, everything would be better. She sees her distractions as her circumstances. We often do too. But Jesus doesn't address the circumstances, he addresses Martha. The distractions are not about what is happening around her but about what is happening within her. Her many tasks have divided her into many parts.

Jesus is saying something like this: "Martha, you are so busy serving me that you have no time for me to serve you. I appreciate your love and I recognize that your motives are good, but your heart is divided and distracted. Your zeal to serve me has pushed me to the edge of your heart. Martha, I want to be at the center of everything for you. That is far more important than preparing a fancy meal in my honor. What if the opposite of and antidote to distraction isn't focus, working harder, or paying more attention but traction? Traction is what lets us move forward and get somewhere. Maybe that's what Jesus is talking about when he says, "There is need of only one thing," Maybe he's talking about traction. And what if we gain traction when we choose the better part? Choosing the better part doesn't mean the other parts are inferior or wrong. It simply means that at this time, in this place, and under these circumstances there is a better part to be chosen. What if Martha could have chosen hospitality with the same wholeheartedness with which Mary chose sitting and listening? That just might have been the one thing for her, the better part.

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. We don't all have to choose the same one thing. What if there is a better part for you and a better part for me just like there is for Mary and Martha? And what if in wholeheartedly choosing the one thing our lives are enlarged and together, we begin responding to the needs of one another and the world? I suspect that wholehearted presence is a key to choosing the better part. When we're wholehearted the divided parts of our lives reunite. Choosing the better part is not, however, a onetime choice. It's a choice made in a particular set of circumstances. So, we must hold our choice lightly so when the context changes or other circumstances present themselves, we can choose the next better part. Otherwise, we just continue living as distracted drivers. When you look at all the many tasks and distractions in your life today what is the one thing for you, the better part? What would it take to be a little more wholeheartedly present? What would give you some traction these days?

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. Will you not make room for Jesus? May God help us to find a place and sit quietly at his feet. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! **Amen.**

All baptized Christians, regardless of age, are welcome to receive communion in the Episcopal Church.

6 PENTECOST - PROPER 11	9:00 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II
		COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS
MONDAY	8:00 PM	AA MEETING
WEDNESDAY	7:00 PM	AL-ANON MEETING
THURSDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP
SATURDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP
7 PENTECOST - PROPER 12	9:00 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II
		COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS

	Today	Next Week
Eucharistic Minister	Anthony Giordano	Dana Kenn
Coffee Hour	Anthony Giordano	Dave Treasure

SUPPORT THE FOOD PANTRY - DROP-OFF IN THE KITCHEN

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Loving God, comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind or spirit. Give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation. Especially we remember before you:

Barbara Curran	Betty Curley	Jess
Bob Curley	Steve Curley	Joseph
Chris Dickson	John Rocco	Deb P.
John Mulligan	Marjorie Guerrier	Bobby
Manetta Family	Robert Hosey	Ryan
Sister Eddie	Bernie Walther	Celeste
Beverly Noel	Phil Ryder	Warren
Anthony Paribello	Jonathan	Del
Donna Amundsen	Kate Jones	Aidan
Shannon & Family	Vincent & Barbara	Ciara

Mary & Family	Wendy	Jan
Nathan Treadwell	Gladys Hadija	Sophia
Michael & Family	Kristen	Mo
Michelle & Family	Christopher	Annie
Timothy Treasure	Donna A.	Aika
Moises Parra	Misael Varas	James
Donald Edwards	Martin	

All people and countries suffering from violence, hatred and natural disaster.

The homeless and food insecure

Help us speak words of encouragement and offer deeds of kindness to them.

Bring us, with them, into the unending joy of your kingdom. Amen.

To add or make changes to the prayer list during the week,
email Janet Croft at jmc220@optonline.net.

A Morning Prayer

Father in heaven, I stand ready to receive Your wisdom
and guidance. In each decision, big or small, lead me to
discern your will and to act accordingly. Help me to
understand the depth of Your wisdom, finding guidance

in Your word and through prayer. Teach me to be patient as I wait for Your direction, trusting that Your timing is perfect. May I navigate this day with the assurance that Your wisdom is a treasure far greater than any earthly knowledge. Guide my thoughts and actions, that they may be a reflection of Your discernment and love. In Your guidance, I find the path to a life of purpose and peace. 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

