

**Sixth Sunday After Pentecost**  
**July 17, 2022**

**Introduction to the Day**

Perhaps the church, at its best, is “all ears.” God urges the faithful, again and again, to “listen up!”—to heed the word that gives life. So it was with Abraham and Sarah, Mary and Martha, and the early church at Colossae. So it is today as we join the assembly to hear the word of God, the word of life.

**Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
whose steadfast love endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of  
one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful God,  
**we confess that we have not followed your path  
but have chosen our own way.**  
**Instead of putting others before ourselves,  
we long to take the best seats at the table.**

**When met by those in need,  
we have too often passed by on the other side.**  
**Set us again on the path of life.**

**Save us from ourselves  
and free us to love our neighbors.**  
**Amen.**

Hear the good news!  
God does not deal with us according to our sins  
but delights in granting pardon and mercy.  
In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are  
forgiven.  
You are free to love as God loves.  
**Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn**

**“Christ, Be Our Light”**

**#715 vs. 1,2,4,5**

**Greeting**

The Grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.  
**And also with you.**

**Prayer of the Day**

Eternal God, you draw near to us in Christ, and you make yourself our guest. Amid the cares of our lives, make us attentive to your presence, that we may treasure your word above all else, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**Reading: Colossians 1:15-28**

<sup>5</sup>[Christ Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation;<sup>16</sup>for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup>He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup>He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. <sup>19</sup>For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup>and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

<sup>21</sup>And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, <sup>22</sup>he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him—<sup>23</sup>provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel.

<sup>24</sup>I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. <sup>25</sup>I became its servant according to God’s commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, <sup>26</sup>the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. <sup>27</sup>To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you,

the hope of glory. <sup>28</sup>It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Children's Message**

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

<sup>38</sup>Now as [Jesus and his disciples] went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. <sup>39</sup>She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. <sup>40</sup>But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." <sup>41</sup>But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; <sup>42</sup>there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ**

### **Sermon**

People of God, grace to you and peace from God, and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. AMEN.

You know that friend or family member that, when you visit their home, they continually apologize for how messy it is, even if it the cleanest home you've ever seen? Their clean is never good enough for them, to the point that while you are there visiting with them, they are more concerned with the cleanliness of the home, than they are grateful to have you as a guest.

If you're thinking that you don't have that friend or family member, your friends may very well think you are that that person.

I have a person in my life who is like that. We will go to visit and almost immediately upon greeting us, they will apologize for the condition of their home. There isn't a spec of dust to be seen, but time will be spent "finishing" cleaning up for our arrival.

It doesn't matter that we remind them that the dust isn't seen in our home because it is under piles of kids' toys and clothes.

Martha is a bit like this in our Gospel text.

Perhaps for good reason. You can certainly make a case that she is doing precisely what Jesus has called his followers to do in the texts leading up to this.

Not long ago, in sending out the seventy 2x2, Jesus tells them that, when they enter a home where they are welcomed, to stay in that place as long as they are fed. Maybe, just maybe, Martha wants to make sure that Jesus feels welcomed in her home, he is fed, so that he won't have the urge to leave.

Jesus has also just gotten done, right before his little travel to their home, telling the crowd the parable of the Good Samaritan. A parable that calls us as people of faith, as Jesus followers, to see a problem and do something about it. Maybe, just maybe, she feels that she is satisfying that call by identifying problems in her home that need to be fixed.

Then she sees Mary.

Mary has the audacity to sit at Jesus feet when he enters the home. Martha is angry. She even tattles. You can maybe hear her voice saying it, too. "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all of the chores? Tell her then to help me."

Mary, too, has been listening to Jesus. She heard what he told the disciples to do in the cities that didn't welcome them. While shaking the dust from their feet in protest, they were to remind those inhospitable places that, "the kingdom of heaven came near to you this day."

Maybe, just maybe, she realizes that the Kingdom of Heaven has come near, and she isn't going to miss it.

More often than not we align ourselves with Martha. We burden ourselves with the things that we think Jesus wants us to do. We hear his call to see a problem and fix it, and we overthink it. We end up finding ourselves seeking problems to fix.

As Jesus tells Martha, "Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things."

We worry ourselves with so much in this life, and much of it is stuff that isn't necessarily ours to deal with. Yes, Jesus tells us last week to see a problem and do something about it, and that is the message that was just preached. But, he doesn't urge us to get on out there and find the next one once we've fixed the problem we're on.

Jesus cautions Martha in this text to not get so bogged down in thinking about what she needs to do next that she misses God's presence right in front of her.

And, he cautions us to.

"There is need of only one thing."

Jesus uses that word that is perhaps the thing we struggle with most as people of faith. Need.

"There is need of only one thing. And Mary has chosen the better part of it."

By sitting at Jesus feet she is sitting with God. Mary knew what she was doing. She knew whose feet she was sitting at. And so she sat. And she listened. Perhaps the greatest gift she could have given Jesus in that moment. She listened.

And, maybe. Just maybe. Jesus knew that by going to that house he would find someone who would listen. It tells us nothing of what he spoke about in that home, if anything at all, he could very well have simply been looking for a place to relax, and he knew he'd find it there. But, Mary wasn't going to miss her opportunity to sit with God in that moment.

People of God, it would do us all a lot of good to follow Mary's lead on this. Perhaps even go as far as finding that Martha in our lives and reminding them that it is okay to just sit with God sometimes. Find that place where you find peace and just sit at Jesus feet.

Put the broom down. Forget the dust rag. Don't bring your hammer, or your first aid kit, or whatever else you might bring with you to fix things. Take nothing. No bag. No bread. No money.

And go, find that place where you sit with God. And stay there as long as you need.

Those moments are rooted in love. That is the thing we need. Mary knew it. Jesus wanted Martha to know it. And we know it, too.

"And it will not be taken away from her."

Thanks be to God.

AMEN

**The Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Prayers of Intercession**

United in Christ and guided by the Spirit, we pray for the church, the creation, and all in need.

Ever-present God, in Christ you fill all things. As your church gathers to hear your word, share your meal, and receive your blessing, teach us to welcome strangers as we have been welcomed by you. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Through Christ you created all things, visible and invisible. Teach humankind to honor and protect all creation, including living things that remain hidden from our eyes such as air, atmosphere, molecules, and microscopic creatures. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Through Christ you reconcile all things. Motivate those in power to end enslavement, dehumanization, or brutality of any kind (*in the spirit of Bartolomé de Las Casas, whom we commemorate today*) and to protect and improve the lives of Indigenous peoples. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Through Christ you bring peace. Assure all who are worried and distracted by many things of your constant presence. Soothe those suffering in mind, body, or spirit. Sustain all who are afflicted and those who serve as caregivers (*especially for Gena, Peyton, Matt, Bob and Joanne, Jim and Sandy, Bob, Joe, Bill and Bonnie, David, Cassie, Keith and JoJo, Sherm and Mary, Frank and Heather, Verna, Bob and Sonja, Irene, Kathy, Val, Jacob*). God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

In Christ you make your word fully known. Inspire this worshiping community (*congregation may be named*) to abide fully in your word as we sit at the feet of Jesus. Bless the ministry of teachers and Bible study leaders. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

In Christ you brought forth the firstborn from the dead. We give thanks for the saints you have gathered at your table. Gather us with them in your eternal glory. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

God of every time and place, in Jesus' name and filled with your Holy Spirit, we entrust these spoken prayers and those in our hearts into your holy keeping.

**Amen.**

## **Offering**

Please see the graphic at the end of the worship packet for a snapshot of our current finances. We had good months in both May and June that have cut our gap roughly in half. However, July is going to be a larger month for expenses and we now have a better idea of what that will look like. Please prayerfully consider a Bridge the Gap gift to your church today!

## **Offertory Prayer**

God of abundance:

you have set before us a plentiful harvest.

As we feast on your goodness,  
strengthen us to labor in your field,  
and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all,  
in the name of Jesus.

**Amen.**

## **Words of Institution**

### **Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

## **Communion**

### **Prayer**

Life-giving God,  
through this meal you have bandaged our wounds  
and fed us with your mercy.

Now send us forth to live for others,  
both friend and stranger,  
that all may come to know your love.

This we pray in the name of Jesus.

**Amen.**

## **Blessing**

The God of peace,  
Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you, comfort you,  
and show you the path of life  
this day and always.

**Amen.**

**Sending Song**            **“Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises”**

**#535**

## **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Love your neighbor.

**Thanks be to God.**

# Financial Snapshot

## January - June

Total Revenue **\$149,629**

Total Expenses **\$158,038**

### How is the gap looking?

\$16,277 THROUGH APRIL

\$8,443 THROUGH MAY

\$8,409 THROUGH JUNE

## July Projection

2022 avg monthly expenses: **\$26,340**

Last 4 July Expenses: **\$25,400**

Expected this July: **\$28,808**

Expenses as of July 6: **\$6,967**

### What will it take?

Giving as of July 6: **\$5,500**

We need to duplicate that for the remaining 4 Sundays to get close.

But, would still need more.

Last week the Leadership Team made the difficult decision to reduce DeAnne's position to half time, and place Anne Weber – Director of Faith Formation on furlough for the remainder of the summer. The hope is to be in a financial position to be able to bring Anne back on in the Fall. In the meantime, in preparation for the fall, the Children – Youth – Family Committee has met and has laid out a plan as we look to the future of those ministries. We are excited and hopeful, and we hope Anne will be able to be a part of it. Further communication on those plans and that future will be coming soon.