

JULY 21, 2019
SIXTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

taking† faith home

Listen to Jesus.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Luke 10:38-42	Only one thing needed
Monday	Genesis 18:1-10a	A son is promised
Tuesday	Colossians 1:15-28	The supremacy of Christ
Wednesday	1 Samuel 3:1-21	The Lord speaks to Samuel
Thursday	Matthew 17:1-8	The Transfiguration
Friday	Proverbs 19:20-27	The wisdom of being taught
Saturday	Psalms 15	Worshiping the Lord
Sunday	Luke 11:1-13	Jesus teaches about prayer

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

She [Martha] had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he [Jesus] was saying. **Luke 10:39 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, give us the peace and joy in your presence that we hear your word and trust in you alone. Through Christ our Lord, amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear Lord, just as Sarah and Abraham fed the three strangers, we thank you for providing us this food today. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May Christ, the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, bless you with faith, hope, and love. (Colossians 1:15)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Jesus, the Very Thought
of You*



CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Who do you trust and want to listen to? Why?
- What helps you to listen to Jesus as your Savior and Lord?
- What gets in the way of listening to the message of Jesus for your life?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Luke 10:38-42.

This short story challenges our ability to interpret Jesus' message. Martha is showing hospitality to her guest Jesus while her sister Mary simply sits at Jesus' feet to listen to him. Hospitality is too important in the Bible (Luke 7:38-50) to see this not as a problem. Somehow, in the midst of her service, Martha gets distracted, perhaps by seeing Mary who simply sits and listens. Jesus affirms Mary's action as choosing "the better part" (v. 42). Even our good intentions to serve can become a distraction when we lose sight (and sound) of Jesus. Listening to the word of God leads us to serve, and serving others leads us back to receiving God's message that turns the world on its head by declaring loyalty to God alone. Why? Because those who receive the message and presence of Christ receive "the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages," and this mystery "is Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27-28). Imagine sitting in front of Jesus. What might he be saying to you? What would you like to ask him?

Pray: **Lord, the busyness of our daily lives can be distracting. Help us to take time to sit down and listen to you. In Jesus name, amen.**

SERVICE



Abraham saw three strangers near him. He and Sarah gave them water and fed them (Genesis 18:1-9). This was an act of kindness and service. There are many who are strangers to us in need of water and food both in our own communities and around the world. Look up those organizations in your area that provide water and food to those in need. In what ways can you donate or support them?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Sometimes our lives get so busy that we do not take time to stop and listen, especially in our homes. In Luke 10:41-42, Martha was busy and had lots to do for her guests. Mary sat and listened to Jesus. Gather three bean bags or balls. Begin by throwing one in the air and catch it. Then add another and another until you are juggling all three. Can you juggle all three easily and pay attention to others? Martha may have been able to juggle everything she was doing well, but she thought everyone else should be doing the same. Jesus told Martha that Mary had chosen the better thing to do by listening. Why is it important to stop being busy in our lives and listen?



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org