



Church At Home
St. Timothy's Lutheran Church – Pembroke, Ontario
Pentecost 6 **July 20, 2025**

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.

The Holy Gospel: Luke 10:38-42

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you O Lord.

Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. 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." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; 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.

Homily by Rev. Jim Goos

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable in Your sight O Lord, our Strength and our Redeemer. Amen

Mary and Martha have very different personalities. Mary is quiet, contemplative; she could sit quietly and read for hours, or just reflect on some big issue. Martha was the opposite. She was a busybody; she couldn't sit still if her life depended on it. She was always doing something.

In the workplace, it's the Marthas who are noticed and valued. They work hard, and don't stop until the job is done. The Marys who just seem to be sitting and reflecting appear to be wasting much of their time.

I suspect that many of us tend to look at ourselves in that way. We can measure what we accomplish when we take on a task and see it through from beginning to completion. Reading or reflecting on something can be an accomplishment too, but if we are just reading for pleasure, or vegetating in front of the TV, it's not really accomplishing anything.

Our Gospel Reading may appear to prefer the quiet, contemplative personality over the busybody, but there is more to it than that.

Martha is busy preparing a meal, setting the table, and serving her guests, while Mary is sitting at Jesus' feet listening to every word He says. Finally, she just can't take any more, and expresses her frustration to Jesus, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me alone to do all the work?"

Jesus' responds, "One thing is necessary." We interpret that to mean that Mary's decision to sit and listen to Jesus is more important than Martha's choice to be busy preparing a lavish meal for Jesus and the disciples.

The Greek phrase suggests that Martha could have accomplished both. The "one thing" would have been to prepare a simple meal, like a stew with all of the ingredients in one pot. While it was slowly cooking, she could have sat and listened to Jesus as Mary did.

Mary made a choice. She heard Jesus speaking and decided that it was more important to hear what He had to say. On this occasion, being with Jesus was more important than doing things for Him.

Martha made a different choice. She decided that preparing a lavish meal and serving her guests were more important than putting it all on hold and going to listen to Jesus. She chose doing things for Jesus, over simply being with Him.

We all make a similar choice every day. Most of us choose to fill our day with work, family, and various activities. We consider all of them important; they are our life. We have learned that from our culture which values busyness. Sitting, reflecting, just being are not valued at all.

Others also fill their lives with those same choices and obligations, but in addition also make time to sit at Jesus' feet, open their hearts and minds to hear what He wants to say to them. They also spend some time reading their bible, inviting God to speak to them through the words that they read, offering guidance and direction for that day, and transforming them as they apply those words to their daily life.

In our Reading, Jesus tells Martha that Mary has chosen "the better thing." Jesus doesn't explain how or why it is better, but other parts of the bible do. Proverbs 4:22 tells us that God's words are "life to those who find them, and health to [our] whole body."

It would be good for each of us to take a few moments to evaluate the things that fill our life. Work is important; we need an income to provide food, shelter, clothing, etc. Eating and sleeping are equally important. But what about the rest of the day?

How many of whatever activities that we are involved in can promise to give us life and health? Activities that involve exercise can and do improve our health, and may even add years to our life.

But not every activity we choose can do that. Some may even be detrimental to our health, and take away years from our life.

I will add that it may not be necessary to spend hours and hours with God. It could be a couple of hours in total, but it doesn't need to be one whole chunk of time. It may be a portion of time at the beginning of our day, before or after breakfast. Another portion after lunch or after work, and another portion after supper or before bed.

How or where you take the time is a matter of what works for you and God. Even more than just the amount of time we spend, it's an attitude – like the attitude that Mary has. When Jesus was speaking, she was fully focused on listening to Him.

We have an advantage over Mary. Through the Holy Spirit, as well as through prayer, we can be in Jesus' presence anytime, anywhere. No matter where we are, no matter what we are doing, Jesus and His Holy Spirit are with us and we can listen to Him and listen for Him, and we can enter His presence.

With some practice and effort we can learn to be in Jesus' presence all day long. Several years ago I came across some writings by Frank Laubach, who was a missionary in the Philippines. During his years there he learned to focus on God and be in God's presence all day long.

One method he used is to track how many minutes out of one hour he could think of God. A good time to start is the hour you spend in church on Sunday morning. Then he carried that into all the situations he faced each day.

When he walked, he pictured Jesus walking beside him, and talked with Jesus as he walked. If he was in a room with other people, he offered a prayer for each person, or asked Jesus what he should say to the person he was talking to.

When he saw a stranger, he would prayerfully ask God to accomplish His purpose in that person.

He wrote a brief article, "Game of Minutes" which explains how to focus on God in the many situations we face each day.

Another method he used was to regularly ask God, "What would you have me say" or "what would you have me do" at this moment. As we learn to do that throughout the day in everything we say and do we remain focused on God wherever we are, whatever we do, all day long.

That's how Jesus lived during His years here on earth. He was constantly focused on His Heavenly Father. I often quote Jesus' words, "The Son can do nothing by himself; he can only do what he sees his Father doing." (John 5:19) As we learn to ask God what He wants us to say or do in every situation we face each day, we will soon be carrying out God's will instead of our own much more often.

As we learn to focus on God throughout the day, we will become more aware of God guiding us, speaking to us, leading us in all that we say and do. And as we do that, we are transformed – we become more like Jesus.

I pray that we all choose the better thing and have the attitude of being in Jesus' presence, listening to Him speak wherever we are, whatever we do, all day long, every day of our life. Amen

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit let us pray as Jesus taught us.....

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.

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious unto you,
The Lord look upon you with favour and give you (+) peace. Amen.

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STTLC Communiqué

In Our Prayers Today.....

Danny Schultz, Lila Martinat, Irlavere Tubbe, Bobby Keuhl, Adele Krieger, Tracy Schori, and Christa Reitlingshoefer.

From the Third Chapter of Ecclesiastes: "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens":

It has pleased almighty God to call to the church triumphant our sister Anne Dehnicke on Thursday, July 10th. Funeral arrangements are with the Murphy Funeral Home and are incomplete at this time. We extend our sympathies to the Dehnicke and Templeton Families and may they find comfort with the knowledge that Anne is now resting in the arms of God.

