

[103] SIXTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME C

FIRST READING

Lord, do not bypass your servant.

A reading from the book of Genesis

18: 1-10a

One hot summer afternoon

Abraham was sitting by the entrance to his tent
near the sacred trees of Mamre,
when the Lord appeared to him.

Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby.
He quickly ran to meet them and bowed with his face to the ground.

He said, "Please come to my home where I can serve you.
I will have some water brought, so you can wash your feet,
and then you can rest under the tree.
Let me get you some food to give you strength before you leave.
I would be honored to serve you."

They answered, "Thank you very much. We accept your offer."

Abraham hurried to his tent and said to Sarah,
"Hurry! Get a large sack of fine flour.
Then mix it and make some bread."

After saying this, he hurried off to his herd of cattle
and picked out one of the best calves,
which his servant quickly prepared.
He served his guests some yogurt and milk,
together with the meat.

While they were eating,
he stood near them under the trees.
They asked him, "Where is your wife Sarah?"

He answered, "She is right there in the tent."

One of the guests was the Lord, and he said,
"I will come back next spring,
and when I do, Sarah will already have a son."

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

15:1-3a, 3bc and 5ef

R. (1a) The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

Who may stay in God's temple
or live on the holy mountain
of the Lord?
Only those who obey God
and do as they should.
They speak the truth
and don't spread gossip.

R. The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

They treat others fairly
and don't say cruel things.
Those who do these things
will always stand firm.

R. The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

SECOND READING

God's mystery has been revealed to you.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians

1:27-28

Brothers and sisters:

God did this because he wanted you Gentiles
to understand his wonderful and glorious mystery.
And the mystery is that Christ lives in you,
and he is your hope of sharing in God's glory.

We announce the message about Christ,
and we use all our wisdom to warn and teach everyone,
so that all Christ's followers will grow and become mature.

The word of the Lord.

ALLELUIA

See Luke 8:15

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed are they who have kept the word with a generous heart
and yield a harvest through perseverance.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

Martha took up the duties in the house.
Mary chose the better part.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke 10:38-42

The Lord and his disciples were traveling along
and came to a village.
When they got there,
a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home.
She had a sister named Mary,
who sat down in front of the Lord
and was listening to what he said.

Martha was worried about all that had to be done.
Finally, she went to Jesus and said,
“Lord, doesn’t it bother you
that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself?
Tell her to come and help me!”

The Lord answered, “Martha, Martha!
You are worried and upset about so many things,
but only one thing is necessary.
Mary has chosen what is best,
and it will not be taken away from her.”

The gospel of the Lord.



**Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Cycle C**

Prayer:
Dear Jesus,
Please help us to find time to spend with you during each day to tell you how much we love you and hear how much you love us.
In your name we pray.
Amen

Readings:

Genesis	18:1-10a
Psalm	15:1-3a, 3bc and 5ef
Colossians	1:27-28
Luke	10:38-42

Reflection:
Martha and Mary weren't little kids in this story but they are behaving like it. Can't you just see Martha rushing around getting the house cleaned and the food cooked while Mary just sat around talking to Jesus? Can you hear Martha whining, "Make Mary help! She not doing anything! I'm doing all the work and she is just sitting!" To which Mary whines back, "Tell her to leave me alone! Jesus is here!" Jesus has to play "Mom" and say "Now girls, stop fighting! Martha come sit with us." Jesus says in the Gospel that Mary was the one that was doing the right thing even though Martha was rushing around doing everything she was supposed to do when someone has company over. Jesus is telling us that it is important to spend time with him. The only way we can listen and learn from Him is to stop what we are doing and quietly listen. Our lives are so busy these days. We rush around with school, sports, friends, scouts, etc. We squeeze in time to help at church and to do service projects. Even though those are all good things, Jesus wants us to slow down occasionally and spend some quiet time with Him. That is part of the reason going to Church on Sunday is so important. We take time out of our week to spend time with Jesus. One day out of a week is not enough, though. We need to take time every day to spend with Jesus to listen to Him and to learn from Him.

Discussion:

1. Which sister do you think you are more like? Why?
2. Why did Jesus say Mary was doing the right thing?
3. How can you find time in each day to spend with Jesus?
4. How do you think you can listen to Jesus?

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Activity: Telephone

Materials: None

Game: Telephone

Place the children in one line, side by side. Whisper something like “Jesus loves you” into the first child’s ear, ask them to whisper what they heard to the person next to them, the next kid does the same thing until the message reaches the last child. Ask that child to say aloud what they heard – more than likely it will not be your original message. Discuss the reasons why the message did not make it correctly all the way to the end. It is hard to hear. You have to be very quiet and listen very hard. Discuss how this might be like listening to Jesus.