

The Eight Sunday after Trinity YEAR C July 17, 2016

This week it's all about listening – to God's word – and to living it out in compassion, integrity and justice – which requires listening to others. This can be harder than it sounds with all the noise that bombards us each day. That's why the discipline of worship is so important. It gives us the time and the space to learn the practice of listening well.

May your listening abilities be enhanced by your worship this week.

INTRODUCTIONS

For use by lectors, in order of service, parish bulletins and magazines

The First Reading - Amos 8: 1-12 - Amos sees a vision of a basket of ripe fruit, which God explains indicates that Israel is ripe for judgement. Amos then prophesies God's judgement against the corruption of God's people, and the famine of hearing God's word that is to come.

The Psalm - Psalm 52 - David speaks words of judgement against Doeg, proclaiming that he will be punished for his lies, while David will prosper under God's care.

The Second Reading - Colossians 1: 15-28 - Paul celebrates Christ as the visible image of God, the Creator and reconciler of all, and describes his ministry of proclaiming the Good News that leads us into relationship with God.

The Gospel Reading - Luke 10: 38-42 - Jesus is welcomed into the home of Mary and Martha. While Martha serves, Mary sits at Jesus' feet – and he refuses to chide Mary for this as Martha requests.

[Click here to view the readings](#)

http://bible.oremus.org/?show_adj=no&passages=Amos%208:%201-12%0Acw%20Psalm%2052%0AColossians%201:%2015-28%0ALuke%2010:%2038-42

COLLECTS OF THE DAY

Collect One

O God,
whose never-failing providence ordereth all things
both in heaven and earth;
We humbly beseech thee to put away from us
all hurtful things,
and to give us those things which be profitable for us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Collect Two

Blessed are you, O Lord,
and blessed are those who observe and keep your law:
Help us to seek you with our whole heart,
to delight in your commandments
and to walk in the glorious liberty
given us by your Son, Jesus Christ.

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Presider or deacon

Let us welcome the strangers at our door with food and prayer in the name of Jesus.

Deacon or other leader

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our bishop,
for this holy gathering, and for
the people of God in every place.
Lord, have mercy.

For all peoples on earth and their leaders.
Lord, have mercy.

For mercy, justice, and peace in the world.
Lord, have mercy.

For those on vacation, and for safety from violent storms.
Lord, have mercy.

For all those in danger and need:
refugees in search of shelter, travellers on their journey, and
for those who give them hospitality.
Lord, have mercy.

For those who rest in Christ and for all the dead.
Lord, have mercy.

For ourselves, our families, our companions,
and all those we love.
Lord, have mercy.

Lifting our voices with all creation, with the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints,
let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ.
To you, O Lord.

Presider

God who comes among us in the person of Jesus, hear the prayers we offer today and
grace our homes with your presence in word and at table; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

POST COMMUNION

Strengthen for service, Lord,
the hands that holy things have taken;
may the ears which have heard your word

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be deaf to clamour and dispute;
may the tongues which have sung your praise be free from deceit;
may the eyes which have seen the tokens of your love
shine with the light of hope;
and may the bodies which have been fed with your body
be refreshed with the fulness of your life;
glory to you for ever.

PRAYERS

God of justice,
your word is light and truth.
Let your face shine on us to restore us,
that we may walk in your way,
seeking justice and doing good. Amen.

Friends in Christ,
God invites us to hold the needs of our sisters and brothers
as dear to us as our own needs.
Loving our neighbors as ourselves,
we offer our thanksgivings and our petitions
on behalf of the church and the world.
Hear our prayers, God of power,
and through the ministry of your Son
free us from the grip of the tomb,
that we may desire you as the fullness of life
and proclaim your saving deeds to all the world. Amen.

As you heard the prayer of Isaac and Rebekah, O God,
and guided them in the way of your love,
so listen now to those who call upon you.
Move us to praise your gracious will,
for in Christ Jesus you have saved us from the deeds of death
and opened for us the hidden ways of your love.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord God, friend of those in need,
your Son Jesus has untied our burdens
and healed our spirits.
We lift up the prayers of our hearts for those still burdened,
those seeking healing,
those in need within the church and the world.
Hear our prayers
that we may love you with our whole being
and willingly share the concerns of our neighbors. Amen.

Creator God,
you call us to love and serve you
with body, mind, and spirit
through loving your creation

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and our sisters and brothers.
Open our hearts in compassion
and receive these petitions
on behalf of the needs of the church and the world.
Holy One,
hear our prayers and make us faithful stewards
of the fragile bounty of this earth
so that we may be entrusted with the riches of heaven. Amen.

We praise your abiding guidance, O God,
for you sent us Jesus, our Teacher and Messiah,
to model for us the way of love for the whole universe.
We offer these prayers of love
on behalf of ourselves and our neighbours,
on behalf of your creation and our fellow creatures.
Loving God,
open our ears to hear your word
and draw us closer to you,
that the whole world may be one with you
as you are one with us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God of mercy and healing,
you who hear the cries of those in need,
receive these petitions of your people
that all who are troubled
may know peace, comfort, and courage.
Life-giving God,
heal our lives,
that we may acknowledge your wonderful deeds
and offer you thanks from generation to generation
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God of salvation,
who sent your Son to seek out and save what is lost,
hear our prayers
on behalf of those who are lost in our day,
receiving these petitions and thanksgivings
with your unending compassion.
Redeeming Sustainer,
visit your people
and pour out your strength and courage upon us,
that we may hurry to make you welcome
not only in our concern for others,
but by serving them
generously and faithfully in your name. Amen.

Ever-faithful God,
whose being is perfect righteousness:
reconcile us in your Son with the helpless and the needy,
with those we would ignore or oppress,

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and with those we have called enemies,
that we may serve all people as your hands of love,
and sit at the feet of those
who need our compassionate care. Amen.

O God of Abraham and Sarah,
in due season, you fulfilled a promise almost too wonderful to imagine.
Awaken us to the workings of your will in our midst,
and keep us attentive to the things that matter,
until the day when your mystery,
hidden throughout the ages,
stands fully revealed in the kingdom of all your saints. Amen.

Eternal God, in Christ you make yourself our guest. Amid all our cares and concerns make us attentive to your voice and alert to your presence, that we may prize your word above all else, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

O God our father, who through your servants Mary and Martha taught us to sit at your feet and to serve you; grant us your grace to fulfil the task you have given us and to draw us ever closer to yourself. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Eternal God, in Christ you make yourself our guest. Amid all our cares and concerns make us attentive to your voice and alert to your presence, that we may prize your word above all else; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well pleasing in His sight; and may the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen

LECTIONARY NOTES 1

This week we have presented to us in the Gospel reading the two seemingly contradictory paths of the Christian life, the pious and the practical, or the spiritual and the down to earth. Last week we read about the Good Samaritan who cared for an injured man. His practical acts of kindness were contrasted with the pious priest and Levite who were more concerned with their religious purity than showing mercy and true religion.

This week we read about an apparently lazy Mary, who sits listening to Jesus whilst the practical Martha gets on with the chores. But Jesus does not call Mary lazy, Jesus tells Martha that it is alright for Mary to be still and listen to him.

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Hopefully Mary was not a lazy person, but she did make use of the time when Jesus was around. She knew that there are times when jobs can be left and there was no need to justify her existence to Jesus by showing him how hard she could wash and cook.

Perhaps you feel that you are surrounded by lazy people and you end up doing all the work. Well perhaps this week it is time to listen to Jesus. There is no need to justify your existence to him, God's mission does not depend upon us slowly burning ourselves out and there will be time enough for working when we have enjoyed a day of rest.

LECTIONARY NOTES 2

REFLECTIONS ON THEME:

Truth and lies; prophecies and the silencing of prophecy; sitting at Jesus' feet or serving; Christ as the image of God, and the Gospel as the saving message that reconciles us with God. This week it's all about God speaking, and the question of whether we will listen or not. As tempting as it might be, based on the Gospel reading, to create a dichotomy between listening and serving, hearing and doing, the other readings don't allow us this. Listening to God's word is inextricably connected to following God's ways of justice, truth and compassion. Perhaps Jesus simply wanted Martha to listen before she acted, rather than assuming she knew what needed to be done? Whatever the case, the message of this week flows easily out of last week's theme. Not only are ordinary things powerful in the work of God's reign, it is as we listen to God's message and implement God's saving reconciling word through simple acts of justice, compassion and a commitment to truth and integrity, that we find ourselves living out the reality of God's reign in our lives and our world.

CONNECTING WITH LIFE:

GLOBAL APPLICATION: Words, used as propaganda, mere rhetoric or to inspire, are a massive feature of today's media-driven world. So many messages call us to label certain individuals or groups in certain ways. So many speakers claim to have the final word on certain situations or problems. So many speeches give little more than double-speak, finger-pointing or denial of responsibility. And, in all of the words, little actually changes. Lives are not saved. Injustice is not exposed and removed. Peace is not created, and solutions are not found to our big crises. One could be forgiven for thinking that we are living in the times Amos spoke about - a famine of God's word. But, God's word is not absent. It has not changed since Jesus lived it and preached it. The essential message of the Gospel – integrity, compassion and justice – has not changed or been silenced. All that is required is for those of us who follow the message of Christ to speak up, in words that are supported by accompanying actions, to challenge the empty words of our time, and call our leaders and our peers to account. But, we cannot do this unless we are prepared to be held to our own standards.

LOCAL APPLICATION: It is all too easy, in our personal lives and in our communities, to decide that we know what is needed, and what is to be done, without taking the time to listen. It is all too easy to speak, without taking the time to hear carefully and prayerfully, what God's message for us really is, or what the stories of those we seek to serve really are. If we are to be a people who bring Christ's grace and justice into our communities, we will need to listen carefully, and then act justly, compassionately and with integrity in response. We will need to avoid the temptation to assume we know what our communities need, and we will need to resist the urge to see ourselves as 'saviours' coming in to 'fix' things 'for' those who 'need' us. Rather we will need to adopt the humility of Mary, the

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hospitality of Abraham, the commitment of Paul, the integrity of Amos, and the faithfulness of David, as we come alongside the people within and 'outside' of our churches, and speak, in listening and word and action, the Gospel message of Christ.

SERMON OUTLINE 1

Luke 10:38-42 Martha welcomed him...

Jesus on his travels entered a certain village – Bethany - El Azaryia – 2m from Jerusalem – East of Mt of Olives... Here he was always a welcome guest at the home of Martha, Mary & Lazarus - Martha welcomed him into her home. Probably she was the older as she takes the initiative...

1. Martha Opened her Home – so NIV – welcome extended also to the disciples in typical Eastern hospitality.. How would we feel if such a large group arrived at our homes unexpectedly? > Panic stations!! And that's what happened to Martha as she was distracted by her many tasks – with no help from her sister - has left me to do all the work by myself – all so human!

2. Mary Opened her Ears – to listen... By contrast she sat at the Lord's feet v39 & listened to what he was saying – intrigued & mesmerised... When Martha complains about the situation, Jesus replies lovingly Martha, Martha, you are worried & distracted by many things; ⁴²there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.

3. Both Opened their Hearts – in reverence & love to JC - was a frequent visitor & close friend – as St John records:- ch 11- the raising of their brother Lazarus from the dead; ch 12 - Mary anointing Jesus... This same Jesus comes to us today in the page of Holy Scripture... How do WE receive him? May our homes be places of welcome to Him & may our hearts be truly open to receive Him as Lord & Saviour, King & Friend....

By Norman Porteous

SERMON OUTLINE 2

Luke 10:38-42 a woman named Martha

In the quiet village of Bethany – far away from the hustle & bustle of Jerusalem – was the home of Mary, Martha & Lazarus, whom Jesus had raised from the dead (John 11)

1. A Homely Welcome 38-39:- earlier Jesus had said he has nowhere to lay his head (9.58).. Here a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. It was a wonderful occasion – fully appreciated by Mary - who sat at the Lord's feet & listened to what he was saying..

2. Hard Work 40:- But Martha was distracted by her many tasks – all the preparations that had to be made... She became flustered & upset – rather peeved she complained to Jesus! 'Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me. It is wrong to be distressed – to complain – Phil 2.14:- Do everything without complaining. Service should be a joy!

3. Humble Waiting 41-42:- Martha was flustered – she needed to slow down & get her priorities right – no matter how important it was to be a good hostess... 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things;

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Learn from Mary – she had a different attitude & temperament - sat at the Lord's feet & listened to what he was saying – sitting not because of laziness but out of love! Mary had right priorities – listening, learning, loving...

⁴²there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.'

All 3 are required in the household of faith – the Church – but we must prioritise like Mary – listen to, learn from, love Jesus - & then put it into practice! *By Norman Porteous*

ONLINE SERMON SOURCES

This one thing - Sermons that work

Just when we think we have the formula all worked out, the path to success all laid out, the one easy answer for earning us an A-plus for discipleship, Jesus goes and throws a wrench into the works. Last week we heard the story of the Good Samaritan, where the point was: Go and do. Love is shown in verbs. Remember? The Samaritan sees, goes, bandages, lifts, takes, gives, pays, promises.

This week we meet a woman who is doing and doing and doing – and all to exercise the virtue of showing hospitality. But this time, doing doesn't seem to be the key. "Stop and listen" seems to be the right answer. What happened?

<http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/stw/2013/06/26/9-pentecost-proper-11-c-2013/>

"**Worried and Distracted**," the Rev. Susie B. Smith, Day 1

http://day1.org/2082-worried_and_distracted

"**Mary and Martha**," the Rev. Thomas G. Long, Day 1

http://day1.org/1052-mary_and_martha

"**Sermon for Proper 11**," the Most Rev. Frank T. Griswold, Day 1

http://day1.org/613-sermon_for_proper_11

Sermon 1 **Are you with Mary or Martha**; Sermon 2 **What's new?** Amos 8: 4-6 - scroll down

<http://www.bruceprewer.com/DocC/C45sun16.htm>

CHILDREN

Worshiping with Children, Proper 11, Including children in the congregation's worship, using the Revised Common Lectionary, Carolyn C. Brown

<http://worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.co.uk/2013/07/year-c-proper-11-16th-sunday-in.html>

With Jesus to the Moon and Back, On the Chancel Steps, children's resources by Frances Woodruff

<https://onthechancelsteps.wordpress.com/2013/07/07/moon/>

"Sermon of the Week," / "Mensajes para niños," Sermons 4 Kids, Charles Kirkpatrick, Object Lessons & Children's Sermons, Coloring Pages, Puzzles.

<http://www.sermons4kids.com/>

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Story for Children's Worship and Family Activity, Ordinary 16, at word-sunday.com: A Catholic Resource for the Lectionary by Larry Broding.
<http://www.word-sunday.com/index.html>

Faith Formation Journeys

This site is new to us - Its worth a look. Click on Children's sermons. This week follows -

Preparation: get an assistant to either flash a light or make a small noise to distract you as you begin. Tell them to start out subtle before becoming more obvious to everyone.



Gather the children to you. Welcome them and start to tell them about the gospel story today. Prompt your assistant to start the light or noise distraction. As you start talking, fade off, lose your place, etc as you are distracted by the noise or light.



Say, "wow I really want to focus on this Bible story but it's hard, I keep getting distracted. Anyone else distracted?" Have the kids point out to you the distraction and then invite your assistant to join you. "This is like our bible story today. Jesus's visiting sisters Mary and Martha. Martha is making dinner and trying to get this ready to be welcoming to her guest. Well she gets distracted by her sister Mary of helping her and she gets upset and tells Jesus to help her get Mary to come help. Jesus knows Martha is distracted by her worry and frustration and tells her that Mary is focusing in on Gods word and has also chosen a good thing. Jesus wants Martha to remember what the main focus is of being welcoming and that is to show care for others in Gods name."



"Do you ever get distracted? What kinds of things distract you?" (Take answers, be prepared to prompt... Could mention the movie "Up" where the dog is always distracted by the squirrel or electronics, etc.). "Many things that are good and things that are not so food can distract us from remembering we are to focus on Jesus words and live our life base don his words and promises, even our thoughts and feelings can get in the way. I think I need that reminder to focus on Jesus and that many of us do. What are ways we can do this?" (Take answers, mention prayer and worship and reading scripture. If you use the inserts or other daily devotional in your congregation this is a great time to show it and teach again how to use it.



Jesus, you are our God. Help us focus on you. Thank you for your words of love for us. Amen



May your heart, hands, feet, head, words, and actions be focused on Christ.

<http://faithformationjourneys.org/?p=1019>

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

And Can It Be
Where Cross The Crowded Ways Of Life
Master, Speak! Thy Servant Heareth
O Word Of God Incarnate
Lord, Speak To Me
All The Way My Saviour Leads Me (YouTube video)
Thy Word (YouTube video)
Living For Your Glory (YouTube video)
Your Word