

## FIRST READING: Genesis 18:1–10a

A reading from Genesis.

The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. <sup>2</sup>He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. <sup>3</sup>He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. <sup>4</sup>Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. <sup>5</sup>Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on — since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." <sup>6</sup>And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." <sup>7</sup>Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. <sup>8</sup>Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

<sup>9</sup>They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." <sup>10</sup>Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son."

## PSALM: Psalm 15

*Cantor sings refrain. Assembly repeats refrain. Cantor sings verses.  
Assembly sings refrain at R.*



- <sup>1</sup>LORD, who may dwell in your <sup>1</sup>tabernacle?  
Who may abide upon your <sup>1</sup>holy hill?
- <sup>2</sup>Those who lead a blameless life and do <sup>1</sup>what is right,  
who speak the truth <sup>1</sup>from their heart; **R**
- <sup>3</sup>they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil <sup>1</sup>to their friends;  
they do not cast discredit up- <sup>1</sup>on a neighbor.
- <sup>4</sup>In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who <sup>1</sup>fear  
the LORD.  
They have sworn upon their health and do not take <sup>1</sup>back their  
word.
- <sup>5</sup>They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes  
a- <sup>1</sup>gainst the innocent.  
Those who do these things shall never be <sup>1</sup>overthrown. **R**

## **SECOND READING: Colossians 1:15–28**

A reading from Colossians.

<sup>15</sup>He 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.

## **GOSPEL: Luke 10:38–42**

<sup>38</sup>Now as they 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."

**Daily Bible Readings:**

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. Try to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passage.

Sunday	Luke 10:38-42	Only one thing needed
Monday	Ecclesiastes 2:17-26	Wisdom about work
Tuesday	Isaiah 55:1-6	Listen, and eat what is good
Wednesday	2 Peter 1:3-11	Everything we need has been given
Thursday	Matthew 6:25-33	Do not worry
Friday	Philippians 4:6-9	Do not be anxious
Saturday	Psalms 127	Unless the Lord builds the house
Sunday	Luke 11:1-13	Jesus teaches about prayer

**Scripture Verses for the Week:**

God was pleased to bring all things back to himself because of what Christ has done. That includes all things on earth and in heaven. God made peace through Christ's blood, through his death on the cross.  
– Colossians 1:20 (NIRV)

- Cut out & carry with you.
- Say at each mealtime.
- Read at bedtime.
- Commit to memory.

**Prayer for this Week:**

Lord God, thank you for making peace with me. Please keep my faith in you steady and firm. Amen. (Colossians 1:22-23)

**For Throughout the Day:**

Lord Jesus, teach me to look to you for everything I need. Amen. (Luke 10:41-42)

**A Blessing to Share:**

*Child of God, may Jesus calm all your worries. May he give you a faith that is steady and firm. Amen.*

**Mealtime Refrain:**

Christ existed before anything else:  
**He holds all creation together.** (Colossians 1:17)

**Mealtime Prayer:**

*God, bless the food that here we see.  
God bless you, and God bless me. Amen.*



**Faith Talk:**

Discuss in your household or small group:

- How are the members of your household (or group) alike in personality? How are you different?
- When Jesus visited Mary's house, Martha was busy working, while Mary sat listening to Jesus. Jesus said that Mary had chosen what was better. What do you think he meant?
- When do you set aside time to listen to Jesus?

**Devotional Practices:**

Jesus said to Martha "you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed" (Luke 10:41). In your home devotion times this week share any worries that are on your minds. Pray about these concerns, asking God to care for you and give you his peace. Say together these words from Philippians 4:6-7 – *'Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand.'*

**Service:**

Two of Sunday's readings illustrate excellent hospitality. Abraham and Sarah treated their guests like royalty (Genesis 18:1-8). Mary welcomed Jesus with her undivided attention (Luke 10:38-39).

Make plans to show hospitality to someone in your home. Think of someone outside of your usual circle of relatives and friends to invite to your home.

**Rituals and Traditions:**

Even when we are busy we, like Mary, need to take time to listen to Jesus. If you're not in the household practice of taking a few moments each day to hear God speak to you, then why not try to do so this week? Decide on a time each day when all of your household will be available – perhaps before or after breakfast, or at dinner time. Set an alarm or give someone the responsibility to gather the household together. Try this simple format: (a) Share about the events of the day; (b) Read a short passage of Scripture or a bible story; (c) Talk about the meaning of the story or passage for your lives at the moment; (d) Reflecting on what you have heard, conclude with prayer.

**Parent Toolbox:****Taking Time to Listen**

Most of our lives are a combination of Martha and Mary – of active busyness and quiet reflection. But if our lives are all-Martha-all-the-time, they may be out of balance. We may be missing "the better part." Does your household life need more Mary-like listening? Do you make time to listen to one another? To Jesus? What is one thing you could change, start doing or stop doing so that you have more time for listening to God and to one another?