

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR C

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Lord God,
you have spoken to us
through your Son, Jesus,
and we still hear his voice
in the Church.
Help us pay attention
to all he says
because it is only by listening
to his words
and putting them into practice
that we show our love for you.
We make this prayer to you
through Christ our Lord.

FOCUS OF THE READINGS:

It is possible that these two readings were combined in the liturgy because of the attitude of hospitality that is evident in both. But hospitality is not the *primary* focus of either reading.

The focus of the first reading from Genesis is the announcement of the birth of a son, Isaac, to Sarah and Abraham. This annunciation is preceded by a meal graciously prepared by the elderly couple for strangers. It is in the atmosphere of hospitality that their visitors reveal the Word of God to Abraham and Sarah. The psalm response reflects the uprightness of Abraham and Sarah.

The focus of the Gospel reading is listening to God's Word. Martha is busy about many things. Mary, on the other hand, sits at Jesus' feet to listen to his word. The point here is not that doing things for others (as Martha was doing) is not important.

FIRST READING: *Genesis 18:1-10a*

A reading from the book of Genesis.

This is how God appeared to Abraham:

One day as Abraham sat at the door of his tent during the hottest part of the day, he saw three men coming along the road.

He ran out to meet them, bowed down in front of them and said,

“My Lord, if you are pleased with me, stay for a while.

Let me get some water to wash your feet, while you rest under this tree.

Then I will bring you some food to eat before you continue on your journey.”

The visitors said,

“Yes, we will stay for a while.”

So Abraham ran back to the tent and said to his wife, Sarah,

“Hurry, get some flour and make bread for our guests.”

Then he ran to the pasture to get a young calf, and he prepared it for dinner.

When everything was ready, Abraham took the dinner he and Sarah had prepared and gave it to his guests.

And he stayed with them while they ate.

They asked Abraham,

“Where is your wife, Sarah?”

He said,

“She's in the tent.”

God said to Abraham,

“I will come again next spring.

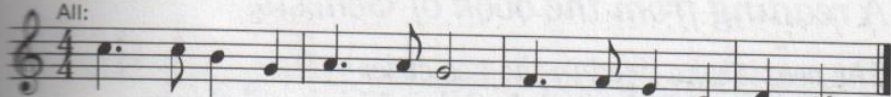
By that time Sarah will have a son.”

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSE: *Psalm 15*

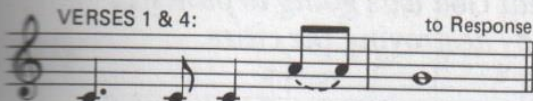
RESPONSE:

All:



They will live with you, O God, they will live for ev - er.

VERSES 1 & 4:



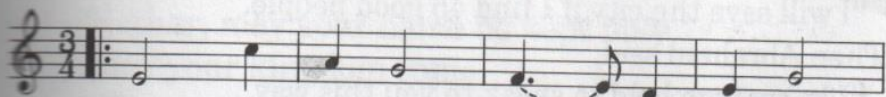
1. Those who speak the truth:
4. Those who do what is right:

VERSES 2 & 3:

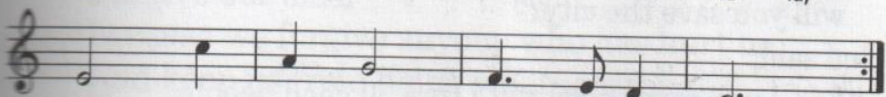


2. Those who show great kind - ness:
3. Those who keep their prom - ise.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:



1. "You are bless - ed, all you who hear me;
2. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,



1. you are bless - ed, lis - ten to me."
2. al - le - lu - ia. "Lis - ten to me."

GOSPEL: *Luke 10:38-42*

A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

One day Jesus went to the village of Bethany, and a woman named Martha invited him into her home.

Martha had a sister named Mary.

Mary was sitting on the floor in front of Jesus listening to him, while Martha was busy

preparing and serving the meal.

Finally, Martha came and said to Jesus,

"Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself?

Tell her to come and help me!"

But Jesus said to her,

"Martha, Martha,

you are letting too many things bother you!

There is only one thing that is really necessary.

Mary has chosen to listen to me,

and that's more important than anything else."

The Gospel of the Lord.

That would contradict the consistent message of the Gospel and especially the Gospel of last Sunday, the Good Samaritan. Since it follows immediately after that story, its central point is one of balance: listening to the Word of God and acting on it.

Jesus says: you are blessed when you listen to me.

REFLECTING ON THE READINGS WITH CHILDREN:

Last week the children heard the story of the Good Samaritan with its concluding exhortation, "Go and treat others the same way!" This Sunday, we invite them to reflect on the source of strength for doing that. Children will be familiar with the necessity of learning the rules before playing a game well, reading or listening carefully to instructions before doing school work well, etc. Help them to see that in order to live as Jesus himself wants us to live, we must listen to him in our heart. We must hear his Word and reflect on it. *Just as we need quiet and time to hear and understand instructions for other things, so we need that in order to live like Jesus.* You might also help the children understand that Jesus is a friend, and that just spending time with him is wonderful. Just to sit quietly in his presence for a while brings us closer to him. *Jesus wants to be with us and to share his thoughts with us.*