

ILCW Year-C Lessons for the Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

OLD TESTAMENT Genesis 18:1-14 NIV The LORD appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. 2 Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground. 3 He said, "If I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, do not pass your servant by. 4 Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree. 5 Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way - now that you have come to your servant." "Very well," they answered, "do as you say." 6 So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah. "Quick," he said, "get three seahs of fine flour and knead it and bake some bread." 7 Then he ran to the herd and selected a choice, tender calf and gave it to a servant, who hurried to prepare it. 8 He then brought some curds and milk and the calf that had been prepared, and set these before them. While they ate, he stood near them under a tree. 9 "Where is your wife Sarah?" they asked him. "There, in the tent," he said. 10 Then the LORD said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son." Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him. 11 Abraham and Sarah were already old and well advanced in years, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. 12 So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, "After I am worn out and my master is old, will I now have this pleasure?" 13 Then the LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Will I really have a child, now that I am old?'" 14 Is anything too hard for the LORD? I will return to you at the appointed time next year and Sarah will have a son."

Epistle

Colossians 1:21-28 Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. 22 But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation -- 23 if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant. 24 Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. 25 I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness -- 26 the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints. 27 To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. 28 We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.

Gospel (Sermon Text)

Luke 10:38-42 As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. 39 She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. 40 But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" 41 "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, 42 but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

Our Savior Lutheran Church  Lakeland, FL, USA
9th Sunday of Pentecost(C)  "One Thing Needful"
July 21st, 2013  9:30am



*Woodcut illustration from a 1695 Bible – Luke 10:38-42
At Bethany Martha works as Mary listens to Jesus.*

Image courtesy of the Digital Image Archive, Pitts Theology Library,
Candler School of Theology, Emory University
<http://www.pitts.emory.edu/dia/detail.cfm?ID=6017>

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

Evangelical Lutheran Synod

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BIBLE CLASS 8:30 AM WORSHIP 9:30 AM FELLOWSHIP 10:30 AM

Pastor Andrew Burmeister (863) 430-5859

Organist: Janice Thomas (813) 650-9198

July 21st, 2013 Pentecost-9(C) ✠ MARY & MARTHA ✠

WELCOME to Our Savior! We are happy to have you worship with us today. If you are visiting us for the first time, we ask that that you please fill out a visitor card found in the pew cardholder and place it in the offering plate. Come and worship with us again! Thank you.

TODAY WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER: If you are new to the area and have never communed with us before, please speak with the pastor before the service. If you are not currently a member of an ELS or WELS congregation, we ask that you please **wait to take communion until you can speak with our pastor.** Out of Christian love and consideration to you the visitor, we want you to have the opportunity to learn what our church teaches about the Bible and Sacraments before you unite with us in taking Holy Communion. Thank you.

ORDER OF SERVICE *(See insert)*

PLEASE NOTE: The service folder insert has been written so that it may be used more than once. If you prefer to use the hymnal, see **page 15**. Feel free to leave the service folder insert with an usher after the service. Thank you. May the Lord bless your worship!

| Service | | |
|----------------|-------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Opening Hymn | 235 (8v) | Sing v1-4;8 O Holy Spirit, Enter In |
| Hymn of Day | 366 (7v) | Sing v1-4 One Thing's Needful; Lord |
| Sermon | Luke 10:38- | <i>"Just ONE Thing Is Needful"</i> |
| Offering Hymn | 644 (1v) | Praise God From Whom All Blessings |
| Communion Hymn | 366 (2v) | Sing v5-7 if time <i>"Wisdom's highest..."</i> |
| Closing Hymn | 53 (6v) | Abide, O Dearest Jesus |

PROPERs for (TRINITY8 =) NINTH SUNDAY of PENTECOST-C ✠ JULY 21

INTROIT: We have thought, O God, on Your loving-kindness, in the midst of Your Temple. According to Your name, O God, so is Your praise to the ends of the earth. Your right hand is full of righteousness. Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of His holiness. ...from **Ps. 48**

COLLECT: Grant to us, Lord, we beseech You, the Spirit to think and do always such things that are right, that we, who cannot do anything that is good without You, may by You be enabled to live according to Your will; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.
C: ♪ A - - men.

GRADUAL: Be my strong Rock, a house of defense to save me. I put my trust in You, O Lord; let me never be ashamed. Alleluia! Alleluia! O My people, hear My teaching; incline your ears to the words of My mouth. Alleluia!
...from **Psalm 78**

SCRIPTURE LESSONS: *(printed on the outside back page of the bulletin)*

Genesis 18:1-14 Abraham showed love and respect for 3 heavenly visitors.

Colossians 1:21-28 St. Paul rejoices in (suffering in) serving God's people.

Luke 10:38-42 Jesus says, "Don't just Do something ... Sit there."

SERMON: (Gospel) **Luke 10:38-42** **THEME:** *MARTHA "TOO BUSY(?) – LISTEN."*

PRAYER REQUESTS:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Madeline Beck | Patty & Buster Brewbaker |
| Richard Birkenmeier | Delores (Dee) Kurczewski |
| Jonathan Jumper (Elaine's grandson) | Jeanette Kubly |
| Vivian Temple (surgery recovery) | Mariah Sawyer |
| George Wendt (brother of Steve Wendt) | Ann Wentz |

| Volunteers | Today | Next Sunday |
|------------|--------------|-------------|
| Greeter | (Volunteer) | (Volunteer) |
| Usher | (Volunteer) | (Volunteer) |
| Treats | Elaine Jones | (Volunteer) |

COFFEE will be served in the Fellowship Hall following the service. Everyone is invited to stay! We thank our volunteers for serving today. We are IN NEED OF SERVERS for future Sundays. If you can help, PLEASE SIGN UP. Thanks!

| Statistics | Last week | Year to date (average) |
|----------------------|-----------|------------------------|
| Sunday Worship | 22 | 34 |
| Communion Attendance | -- | 28 |
| Sunday Bible Class | 11 | 10 |
| Thursday Bible Class | 7 | 9 |
| Sunday Offering | \$ | (YTD total) \$ |

Calendar of Events

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday, 7/21 | 8:30 am 9:30 am 11:00 ff... | Bible Study (Genesis 41) Divine Worship (w/ Holy Communion) Fellowship time: <i>Treats and Drinks</i> |
| Tuesday, 7/23 | 6:00 pm | Catechism Class with Prescott |
| Thursday, 7/25 | 6:30 pm | Bible Study at Madeline Beck's |
| Thur.-Sun.25-28 | (3.5 days) | LYA'13: ELS Youth Rally Winter Park, FL |
| Sunday, 7/28 | 8:30 am 9:30 am 10:30 ff... | Bible Study Divine Worship (no Communion) Fellowship time: <i>Treats and Drinks</i> |

Congregational Notes

Please contact our Elders with any concerns about church matters: **Jim Vanesky 644-7807 & John Weber 853-5458 & Don Wienke 863-815-8892.**

Schedule notes - this rest of July

+ The ELS' LYA (Youth) Rally is **July 25-28th** in Winter Park at Rollins.edu

+ Next Sun.(7/28) Service of Word (**no L.S.**) p.5 Hymns: 537, 446, 459, 26

TRINITY-8(P9C) Luke 10:38-42 "BETHANY: MARTHA&MARY" 07.21.13 OS
Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things; ONE THING IS NEEDFUL. Mary has chosen the good portion, which shall not be taken away from her. (Luke 10:38-42)

INTRODUCTION We are busy people. Running here and there. Always on the go at freeway speeds. Campouts and cookouts. Shuttling the kids to baseball, soccer, volleyball, basketball. Work demands more and more of our time and energy. Deadlines to meet, quotas to fill, paperwork to get done. The list of household chores grows longer every week. Barely time for a family meal, let alone an evening devotion. Little wonder that our sicknesses are mostly stress related. We are busy people.

Congregations can be busy places too. There is always work to do, and always too few people to do it. Programs to run; property to care for; bills to pay. Sometimes the work piles up so much that it even overshadows worship. Worship always comes **first** and **foremost** in the Christian congregation. It's why God gathers a congregation in the first place, so that we can sit at the feet of Jesus and hear His Word. Any work that takes the place of worship, no matter how honorable or important it might otherwise be, is, well ...**idolatry**. When we're so busy we can't pause to hear God's Word, we can hardly turn around and ask God to bless what we're so busy doing.

The saying goes that **idle hands are the tools of the devil**. Perhaps so. But **busy hands** can also be the devil's delight **when they keep us from the Word of God**. Busy is **not** necessarily a healthy word. It (often) means something has gone horribly wrong. I learned to throw away anything addressed "to the busy pastor." That's an appeal to my sinful nature. I cringe when people begin a conversation with me by saying, "I know you're busy...." The fact is, I'm not busy, and if I look busy, don't reward that behavior. **I'm busy because I'm proud. Being busy makes me look useful and productive. I'm busy because I'm lazy.** By running around doing busy work I can avoid the hard work of my vocation - the **Word of God and Prayer**.

The problem is that you don't look terribly busy when you're listening to God's Word. What do you do when you come to church? Mostly, you **sit** and **listen**. You **sing** hymns. You **pray**. You **kneel** and **eat** a bit of bread and **drink** a sip of wine. But mostly, **you sit and listen to God's Word**. While at church you contribute nothing to the gross national product, do nothing to alleviate the national debt, or your own. You don't even solve world hunger or homelessness. By American standards, worship is **UNproductive**.

Little wonder many people **mistake worship for a leisure activity**, something you do if you have the time and **don't have other plans**. "*We'd like to make it to church more often, pastor, but we're just so busy.*" And we teach our children to say the same thing every time we provide an alternative activity to church on Sunday morning to keep **them** busy.

... "**Seeya (next) Sunday.**" = Parting words from pastor to members and vice versa. You expect me to be here on Sunday, and I hope and expect the same from you. Otherwise there isn't much point in me being here. **Not much use for a preacher unless there are hearers**. I don't expect this of unbelievers. But I assume that people who love Jesus and trust Him for their life and salvation also **enjoy being in His presence**. And there is no greater **Gospel presence of Jesus than in the Word and the Sacrament**. It breaks my heart to hear people

respond, "*We'll see*" or "*Oh, I'm not sure if we'll be there.*" Try that line **on your spouse**. "*I'm not sure if I'll be home tonight, dear.*"

I do realize that a few of us are called away on Sunday by our vocations. A few are too frail or sick to leave their homes. That's why I bring **Holy Communion** to people like Dee [Delores]. But for most of us, these are choices we make, not burdens laid upon us. We **choose** to work or play or worship. **We choose how we spend our time**. Truth be told, we probably choose to spend more time sitting in front of our **televisions** and **computers** than we do **sitting at the feet of Jesus**.

"We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred, gladly hear and learn it." (3rd Comm. Expl.)

In this morning's Gospel, Martha was the busy one, frantically running around the house, sweeping the floors, fluffing the pillows, setting the table, stirring the pots, baking the bread. All of it important work, no doubt. After all, this was Jesus coming to her house. Who wouldn't put out a special effort? Meanwhile, sister Mary sat on the floor at Jesus' feet, quietly taking in His word.

Then the pots on the stove start boiling over. That's when the fireworks begin. It's like a scene straight out of Chef Ramsey's Hell's Kitchen. The pasta water is boiling over, the sauce won't thicken, the roast is in danger of being overcooked, the vegetables are getting soggy, the temperature in the kitchen is rising, and Martha finally snaps. She slams her spoon down on the counter and storms out of the kitchen. And Who does she lash out at? Not her sister! **No. Her Guest!** The One she was (supposed to be) totally focused on, the reason for all her preparations. She lashes out **at Jesus!** And she wants Him to lay down the law. "*Tell her to help me.*"

Anxiety, irritation, anger, rage, bitterness, resentment. That's the fruit we pick when we become so busy we forget Whom we are serving with our work and why. We **lose our focus when Christ is not at the center** of our work. Our hearts become frustrated and angry when they are unbuckled from Jesus and His Word. We become angry with our (brothers or) sisters who aren't "pulling their weight." We resent being part of the **20% who do 80% of the work** and we're quick to point it out to anyone who will hear. We become angry even with God for leaving us all alone and not doing something about it.

In her busyness, Martha completely lost sight of why she was working so hard. She was supposed to be serving Jesus. And what a **JOY** that should have been. But all she could see was the work that needed to be done and that she was the only one doing it. Her busyness robbed her of the **joy of Jesus' company**. And, it robbed her of **PEACE** with her sister.

In frustration Martha resorts to **the Law**. "*Tell her to help me.*" We do the same thing. "Don't just sit there, do something." We enlist God on our side to order the slackers around. We dig up a proof text or two from the Bible to bully the complacent into action. Jesus could have done that. He could have scowled a bit, cut the theological conversation short, and sent Mary off to help her sister in the kitchen. He could have said, "*The Word can wait, go help your sister with her work.*"

But Jesus didn't do that. Instead He speaks a word to busy Martha. "*Martha, Martha. Look at you. You are anxious and worried about many*

things. And for what? I didn't come to your house to be served. I came to serve you, to be with you and your sister. You've been so busy, we've barely had time to visit. Why don't you pull up a seat next to Mary over here by my feet and just rest for awhile. Your sister has chosen the good portion, the one thing she (and you) need the most, and I'm not about to take that from her."

(Psalm 46) "Nations are in turmoil, kingdoms rage. The earth melts." The house is a mess. Work is piled high on the desk. Voice mail and e-mail runneth over. The kids are late for soccer practice. The dog's gotten loose. The grass needs to be mowed. Weeds have taken over the garden. There's work to do. (The **world** says) "Don't just sit there, do something!" (**God** says) "Be still and know that I am God." "Be still. Be quiet. Stop doing whatever it is you're doing, and let me be God."

To sit at the feet of Jesus is **the One (and Only) Thing you need**. It is the good portion that **Jesus hung on a Cross to win for you**, and He won't let anyone take that away from you. Work, business, recreation, hobbies, sports - everything else can wait. **First we must sit at Jesus' feet and hear his Word**. (It may seem strange, but) The **most important** activity as a disciple of Jesus is really a **NON-activity** - to **hear** the Word of God, to **receive** the forgiveness of our sins, and to **eat and drink** your Savior's Body and Blood. There is **nothing more important, more central, for your life than that**.

"Come to me," Jesus says, "and I will give you rest." Rest. **Sabbath**. The day you rest from your work to rest in God's Word. The Sabbath was God's weekly reminder that salvation is not by works but by faith, not by being busy but trusting in God's promise of mercy. Your **busy**-ness won't impress God. No matter how much running around you do, it will never be enough. Jesus didn't come to be served but to serve, to give His life as a sacrifice for sinners. He doesn't need **our** service. We need **His** Divine Service.

CONCLUSION Think of all the **amazingly gracious** things Jesus does for you in church this and every Sunday morning. At **9:30am**, at the beginning of the service, He **forgives** your sins. He turns the key that opens wide the gates of heaven to all who repent of their sin and trust His word of forgiveness. He **preaches** His Word to you. He feeds you with His own **Body and Blood**.

(OSL - Church) Here is where the feet of Jesus are for you to sit, those feet that walked dusty roads to proclaim the Good News of God's Kingdom. Feet of which John the Baptizer was unfit to tie a sandal. Feet that were pierced with a nail for our salvation. Here you get to be like Mary, sitting at His feet, resting in His Word.

Busy? Anxious? Stressed out? (Jesus' says) "**Don't just do something, sit there**" ...at the feet of Jesus. **In (that same) Jesus' Name, Amen.**

Now, the peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus to life everlasting. **Amen. SDG**

Prayer of the Church 9th Sunday after Pentecost 21 July 2013

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Jesus Christ, and for all people according to their needs.

Heavenly Father, Abraham extended hospitality to his visitors, and Martha served Your Son. Make us eager also to show hospitality to those we encounter, opening our homes, our hearts and our goods to welcome all You send our way. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Heavenly Father, Your Son praised Mary's choosing the good things of hearing His word and taking it to heart. Grant to this congregation and to our Synod as it meets this week in convention a zeal for Your Word, that nothing prevent us from hearing that Word and welcoming Your Son in His Sacrament each Lord's Day. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Heavenly Father, You made Paul a minister for Your Church to make Your Word fully known. Abide with all pastors and those studying to be pastors, with all current pastors, with missionaries and translators, teachers and all who work to bring Your Word to Your people, that their labors might be fruitful and their hearts faithful. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Heavenly Father, You have committed the authority to govern our public servants. Send Your angels to watch over their work, that their labors would be pleasing to You and guided by You. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Heavenly Father, though we are anxious and troubled about many things, set our hearts at ease. Give comfort to those who suffer: the sick, the injured and the hospitalized. In mercy, remember those who have requested our intercessions, *[including, _____]*.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Madeline Beck | Patty & Buster Brewbaker |
| Richard Birkenmeier | Delores (Dee) Kurczewski |
| Jonathan Jumper (Elaine's grandson) | Jeanette Kubly |
| Vivian Temple (surgery recovery) | Mariah Sawyer |
| George Wendt (brother of Steve Wendt) | Ann Wentz |

Grant them relief from their pains and, according to Your will, healing and restoration of strength. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear out prayer**.

(Private petitions in a moment of) *Silent prayer*.

Heavenly Father, prepare us to receive the one thing needful, even Your Son Jesus, as He comes to us in His true body and blood in the Holy Supper for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith. Grant that we receive these gifts with genuine repentance that we might not receive them to our harm, but in living faith receive them for our profit. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**