

THE GOSPEL LESSON—Luke 10:38-42

As Jesus traveled about, He, with His disciples, would use the generosity of others for a place to stay and food to eat. A good host would of course feed the visitors (after the example of Abraham.) Somehow Martha thought serving Jesus was the most important thing, and was upset that Her sister was not helping. There are several ways to understand what was happening. Generally we are so busy with the worries and cares of our life, that we don't have time to listen to God, so we become Marthas, trying to do what makes more sense. But, there is also the problem of letting the world interfere with listening to the Word of God by doing what looks more like fun (i.e. doing things other than attending worship.)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

② O heavenly Father, by Your Son You created all things that are in Heaven and Earth. You established what is visible from what is invisible and gave Your Son authority over all. Through Him we have received the spirit of adoption whereby we are able to truly know You as our Father. As we call on You in our prayer, assure us that we will be heard as Your beloved children.

Father, for Your church and Your people we pray. Grant them Pastors and teachers who are counseled and led by Your Spirit. Help their Pastors earnestly hold forth the Word of life, diligently gather Your children and teach them all things whatsoever our Lord has commanded. Knit us together in Your Love, that we may stand fast in one spirit, and with one mind strive together for the faith of the Gospel.

Father, send Your Holy Spirit into our homes. Let the Word of Christ, in all wisdom, dwell richly in our children. Grant that all parents are worthy examples of true Christian virtues. Shelter the homes where Your Word reigns supreme from all harm and danger.

O, our gracious Father, from Whom all good counsels and just works come, give to any of Your children who may be enduring pain, sickness, the threat of disease, mental or spiritual anguish, or any other adversity of the body or soul, such an assurance of Your Love and mercy that they may commit themselves completely into Your care and receive from You all things needful for their health and healing, we ask for all things needful for their salvation.

Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. (**Time of silent prayer.**)

Abba, Father, as You have instructed us through Your Word to let our requests come unto You, we come in loving gratitude and trust, offering this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, our brother, our Lord, our Savior.

© Amen.

PROPER ELEVEN

Chant Tone



Introit

Your word is a lamp | to my feet*
and a light | to my path.

The Lord is my —portion;*

I promise to | keep Your words.
I entreat Your favor with | all my heart;*
be gracious to me according to Your
—promise.

When I think | on my ways,*

I turn my feet to Your testi —monies;
I hasten and do | not delay*
to keep your com —mandments.

The Earth, O Lord, is full of Your
| steadfast love;*
teach me Your —statutes!

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy —Spirit;
as it was in the be —ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. —Amen.

Your word is a lamp | to my feet*
and a light | to my path.

(Antiphon, Psalm 119:105;
Psalm 119:57-60, 64)

Collect of the Day

O Lord, grant us the Spirit to hear Your Word and know the one thing needful that by Your Word and Spirit we may live according to Your will; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Gradual

How beautiful are the feet of those who preach | the good news,*
who publish peace and bring good news of sal —vation.
Their voice has gone out to | all the Earth,*
and their words to the ends | of the world.

(Romans 10:15b, 18b; Isaiah 52:7b, alternative)

ENTRANCE PRAYER: O Lord our Righteousness, we, the sheep of Your flock gather together to bring You our praise and thanksgiving. We praise You for breaking down the dividing wall of hostility between us by bringing us near to You through the blood of Christ. For making it possible for us to become fellow citizens and members of Your household, we give You thanks. May Your Holy Spirit keep in our hearts the assurance that we always have access to You. Make our hearts Your dwelling place. Assure the lonely of Your presence, be the comfort the sick and depressed with the assurance of the resurrection. In Your will grant what we ask. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

WORKING ON THE WORDS AND MESSAGE OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE WAS THE LAST TIME THOMAS JEFFERSON AND JOHN ADAMS AGREED ON ANYTHING. Adams was a Federalist, Jefferson believed in a strict sense of States Rights. It is taught that Jefferson campaigned for the presidency only to oust Adams. Mary and Martha didn't agree on how to greet Jesus. Martha, was busy with preparations for the Lord's visit, while Mary, was busy listening to the wonderful Words spoken by her Lord. We are happy you are here. We ask that God would bless your heart and mind, as you listen to the Words of Jesus and make the receiving of His Word of great value to your life.

THEME OF THE DAY:

Hearing the Word of God

INTROIT—(Antiphon, Psalm 119:105;) Psalm 119:57-60, 64
Psalm 119 was probably written by David. Some think that it was a lifetime work as there are 22 sections (one for each letter of the Hebrew Alphabet.) The purpose of Psalm 119 is to expound on the excellent nature and usefulness of the Law of God. The main section of our Introit comes from letter, "heth." The people of the world take their, "portion," from wealth or position. We receive our, "portion," from the Lord. Our portion is property right inheritance in Heaven.

COLLECT

Isn't it funny that we have to ask to hear God's Word. Our problem is that we are essentially deaf to God. Without His active assistance we have no idea what Scripture is saying to us. Let us hear, O Lord.

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Genesis 18:1-14

God had previously promised Abraham a son. As Sarah had aged past the child bearing years, Abraham had agonized about the lack of an heir. Three men visited Abraham (Luther understood this to be a symbol of the Trinity of God. The three are two angels and The Angel of the Lord, who is the pre-incarnate Christ.) Abraham showed amazing hospitality (as it is mentioned by the author of Hebrews 13:2.) The men told Abraham that Sarah was going to have a son. Sarah laughed. (The son's name ended up being Isaac which is a play on the word laugh.) Sometimes we think the Words of God are foolish. They don't seem to make sense, but, God's foolishness is smarter than our greatest wisdom. Sometimes we don't think God will answer our prayer, but God's patience and timing are far greater than we comprehend.

GRADUAL—Romans 10:15b, 18b; Isaiah 52:7b alternative

Paul expressively quoted Isaiah, then we finish by paraphrasing Isaiah. The Word of God is going to the ends of the Earth, prompted on by the Church of God.

THE EPISTLE LESSON—Colossians 1:21-29

The believers in Colossi had been pulled out of the ordinary and mundane to find themselves part of an incredible mystery. They had been taught the mystery of Christ in us. Now they are being threatened by false teachings (probably some sort of success gospel.) Paul reminded them about His personal suffering to show them that while, faith in Jesus is eternal life, even Christ suffered in this life. Christ living in us is the expectation of eternal glory, not some sort of earthly glory. They were being encouraged by Paul to turn again to the Gospel they heard from him, and not depart from it for any reason.