

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

See, I have God for my help.  
The Lord sustains my soul.  
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart,  
and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

**GLORIA**

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

**COLLECT**

Show favour, O Lord, to your servants  
and mercifully increase the gifts of your  
grace,  
that, made fervent in hope, faith and charity,  
they may be ever watchful in keeping your  
commands.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of  
the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**FIRST READING**

Genesis 18:1-10

A reading from the book of Genesis.

The Lord appeared to Abraham at the Oak of Mamre while he was sitting by the entrance of the tent during the hottest part of the day. He looked up, and there he saw three men standing near him. As soon as he saw them he ran from the entrance of the tent to meet them, and bowed to the ground. "My Lord," he said "I beg you, if I find favour with you, kindly do not pass your servant by. A little water shall be brought; you shall wash your feet and lie down under the tree. Let me fetch a little bread and you shall refresh yourselves before going further. That is why you have come in your servant's direction." They replied, "Do as you say."

Abraham hastened to the tent to find Sarah. "Hurry," he said "knead three bushels of flour and make loaves." Then running to the cattle Abraham took a fine and tender calf and gave it to the servant, who hurried to prepare it. Then taking cream, milk and the calf he had prepared, he laid all before them, and they ate while he remained standing near them under the tree.

"Where is your wife Sarah?" they asked him. "She is in the tent" he replied. Then his guest said, "I shall visit you again next year without fail and your wife will then have a son."

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

Psalm 14

Response:

The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

1. Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain?  
He who walks without fault;  
he who acts with justice  
and speaks the truth from his heart;  
he who does not slander with his tongue.  
(R.)
2. He who does no wrong to his brother,  
who casts no slur on his neighbour,  
who holds the godless in disdain,  
but honours those who fear the Lord. (R.)
3. He who keeps his pledge, come what may;  
who takes no interest on a loan  
and accepts no bribes against the innocent.  
Such a man will stand firm for ever. (R.)

**SECOND READING** Colossians 1:24-28

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians.

It makes me happy to suffer for you, as I am suffering now, and in my body to do what I can to make up all that has still to be undergone by Christ for the sake of his body, the Church. I became the servant of the Church when God made me responsible for delivering God's message to you, the message which was a mystery hidden for generations and centuries and has now been revealed to his saints. It was God's purpose to reveal it to them and to show all the rich glory of this mystery to pagans. The mystery is Christ among you, your hope of glory: this is the Christ we proclaim, this is the wisdom in which we thoroughly train everyone and instruct everyone, to make them all perfect in Christ.

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Open our heart, O Lord,  
to accept the words of your Son.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

Luke 10:38-42

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus came to a village, and a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. She had a sister called Mary, who sat down at the Lord's feet and listened to him speaking. Now Martha who was distracted with all the serving said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister is leaving me to do the serving all by myself? Please tell her to help me." But the Lord answered: "Martha, Martha," he said "you worry and fret about so many things, and yet few are needed, indeed only one. It is Mary who has chosen the better part; it is not to be taken from her."

The Gospel of the Lord.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with  
the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
(all bow during the next three lines)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the  
Virgin Mary,  
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under  
Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,  
the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored  
and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and  
apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness  
of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the  
dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

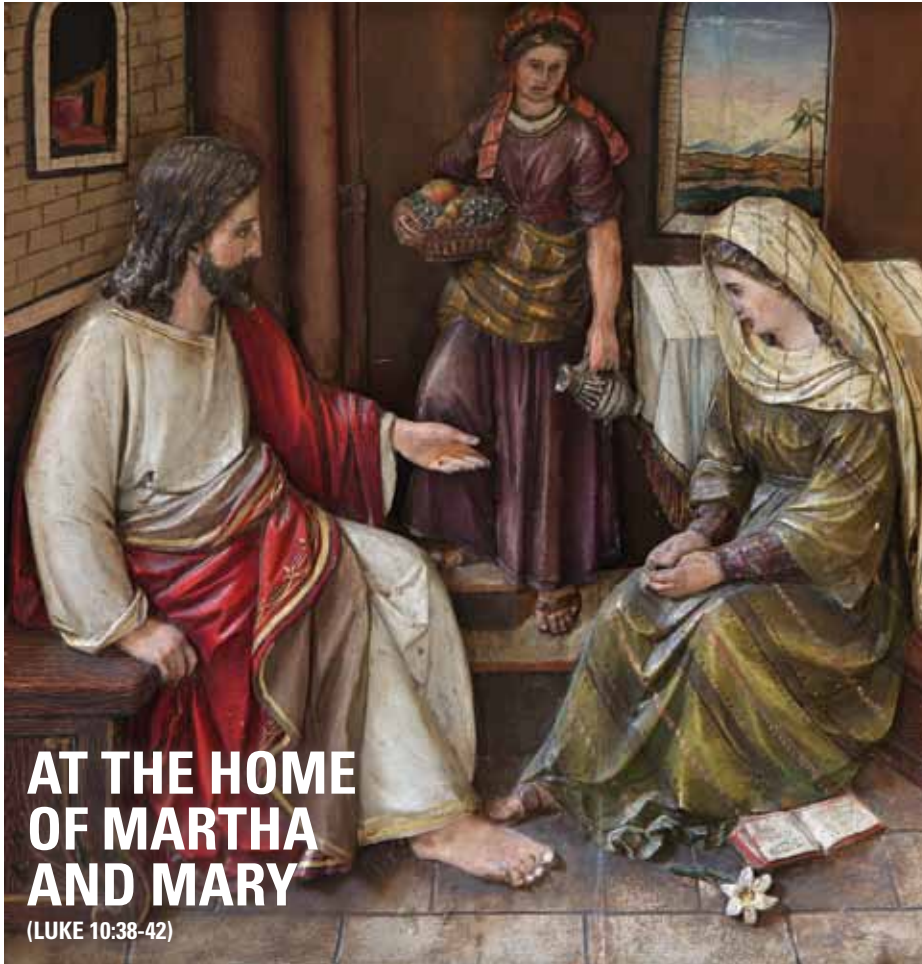
O God, who in the one perfect sacrifice  
brought to completion varied offerings of the  
law,  
accept, we pray, this sacrifice from your  
faithful servants  
and make it holy, as you blessed the gifts of  
Abel,  
so that what each has offered to the honour of  
your majesty  
may benefit the salvation of all.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

The Lord, the gracious, the merciful,  
has made a memorial of his wonders;  
he gives food to those who fear him.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Graciously be present to your people, we  
pray, O Lord,  
and lead those you have imbued with  
heavenly mysteries  
to pass from former ways to newness of life.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.



## REFLECT

I don't claim to be a scripture scholar but I read what they have to write, and former Anglican Bishop of Durham, N.T. Wright, states that what marks Jesus in the Gospels, especially in the Gospel of Luke, is his overturning of social conventions. In his interactions with tax collectors, Samaritans, Roman soldiers, he touches the unclean, all in service for the Kingdom of God. But his radical inclusion of women into his life and ministry shows that Jesus welcomed the discipleship of women. Remember, he spoke to a woman publicly at a well, he forgave the adulterous woman, he allowed women into his inner circle and the first witnesses of the resurrection were women. N.T. Wright states that Martha was in the space reserved for women and she knew her role. The world of Jesus placed women in the food preparation area and that's why Mary's presence at the feet of Jesus is so unusual and extraordinary. She takes on the attitude of a disciple while being surrounded by disciples and perhaps Mary's actions were not only offensive to Martha but also to the other disciples too. St Paul once said that in Christ there is no slave or free, no Jew or Greek, no male or female. This statement in itself is very radical because these were the most basic social divisions of the time. But as Bishop Robert Barron states, "the radicality of Jesus cuts through social conventions". Did Jesus care when women assumed roles of discipleship or leadership?

Today is a celebration of the women in Jesus' life and in the life of the church.

Over the past couple of weeks, Luke's Gospel has given us some vivid presentations of the work of Jesus and his disciples on the road from Jericho to Jerusalem; and a presumption we can make about the gathering in Martha and Mary's house is that the men were most certainly hungry.

Martha is obviously taking charge of the preparation of food and "was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made". We can picture her bustling around the kitchen area and worrying perhaps that she might not have enough food to go around. But rather than help her sister, Mary has decided to become involved with the meeting of men that has taken place in the other room. This would have been a common occurrence in Jesus' time, the teacher or rabbi holding court while his students listened. Mary sat at the Lord's feet listening intently to his every word. By sitting at his feet, she has chosen to become his disciple. Martha of course enters this scene full of frustration: "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself?" At this point it could be said that very rarely if ever Jesus gets involved in family squabbles, especially between two sisters! His response, "Mary has chosen what is better" reflects Mary's devotion to the Son of Man and her discipleship will truly be rewarded. ■

## SAY

**God, my Father,  
You have promised to remain  
forever with those  
who do what is just and right.  
Help me to live in Your  
presence.  
Keep before me the wisdom  
and love  
You have made known in  
Your Son.  
Help me to be like Him in  
word and deed. Amen.**

## LEARN

"Jesus was aware of the purpose of his mission: to announce the Kingdom of God and make it present in his own Person, in his actions, and in his words, so that the world would become reconciled with God and renewed."

(International Theological Commission)

## DO

Read this Gospel again and become more conscious of the interactions between Christ and his disciples. The Gospel is a little light on information but try to imagine what the conversation might have been after their arduous journey.