



Liturgy Cycle C

Sixteenth Sunday Of The Year

Pulling First Things First

Introduction

When we come to celebrate the Eucharist we are sometimes told that we should leave behind us our cares and concerns. Rather, what we should do is bring them with us and lay them at the feet of Christ. This is what a woman called Mary does in the Gospel of today. Let us do that. Let us now confess our sins to God and to each other.

I confess to almighty God . . .

First Reading (Genesis 18:1-10)

When Abraham gave hospitality to three strangers he did not know that he was entertaining God himself. The strangers reward him with the good news that his wife is to bear him a child.

Second Reading (Colossians 1:24-28)

Paul suffers for his converts. He is a minister of 'that mystery hidden for generations,' namely the calling of the Gentiles to salvation.

Gospel (Luke 10:38-42)

The sisters, Martha and Mary, welcome Jesus into their home in Bethany, though each does so in a different way.

Prayer Of The Faithful

Let us pray that we may welcome Jesus into our hearts and into our lives as Mary did, and that like her, we may choose the better part.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

For the followers of Jesus: that like Mary they may always be conscious of their need of his peace, healing and forgiveness. Let pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

For all our leaders: that they may listen to Christ and be guided by his teaching in all the difficult decisions they have to make. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

For people who feel abandoned, left out and rejected; that they may meet with acceptance and be brought in from the cold. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.



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That we may be open people, ready to share with others, ready to accept them and make them welcome, since we know that the Lord has made us welcome. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray:

God our Father, you sent your Son among us to seek out and to save the lost, to welcome back into your family all those who are despised and rejected, and to offer to all a place at the banquet of your kingdom. Help us to be open to him and to the gifts he wants to bring us in your name. We ask this through the same Christ our Lord.

Communion Reflection

**Placing ourselves in the presence of God.
The first thing we have to do is to be still physically.
Next we have to halt the mind,
something which is far more difficult to do.
We have to empty it of our cares, anxieties and plans.
Then we make a surprising discovery -
the world turns without us.
This means that neither we nor our schemes,
which may appear to us to be of the utmost importance,
and which are devouring all our energies,
are as important as we imagine.**

**Then our projects lose their power over us,
A healing process begins.
Far from the strain and turmoil of life.
our fragmented self is reassembled.
We slowly become whole again.
We rest quietly in the presence of God,
like a little boat which has been tossed by the sea,
and buffeted by the wind.
rests secure in a sheltered harbour,**

**In his presence we experience our true worth,
which consist, not in doing, but in being.
We surrender ourselves into his hands.
We are at peace.
Even our dreams have been put to sleep.**