

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.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** cf. Lk 8:15

**Alleluia, alleluia! Happy are they who have kept the word with a generous heart, and yield a harvest through perseverance. Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL** Lk 10:38-42

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.**

*Martha took up the duties in the house. Mary chose the better part.*

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.**

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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

17 JULY 2022

## TO DEEPER TRUTHS

Things are not always what they seem and we can all be fooled by first appearances. The life of faith calls us to go beyond appearances to the deeper truths that underlie them. This requires an openness to the unexpected and we may well receive more than we bargained for! Abraham and Sarah did not think that they were welcoming the Lord by entertaining three unknown guests. Their generous hospitality meets a most unexpected reward when the Lord promises them the son they dearly long for.

Similarly, the Lord's reply to Martha is not what she anticipated. In her concern to put on a welcome worthy of her guest, she has been momentarily deafened to the deeper invitation of listening to the life-giving word of Jesus. While she is looking at what she can do for the Lord, the Lord reminds her of what his word can do for her!

When Paul wrote to the Colossians he was in prison and the community of Colossae would have been concerned for him and dispirited by his dreadful situation. With the eyes of faith, Paul invites them to see that his suffering is not a sign of his defeat but, rather, a sharing in the saving suffering of Christ for the sake of the Church. Paul's ministry appears to have come to a dead end, but for those able to see with the eyes of faith, it is a deeper sharing in the rich mystery which had been hidden for generations.

**Christopher Monaghan CP**

## FIRST READING

Gen 18:1-10

**A reading from the book of Genesis**

*Lord, do not bypass your servant.*

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.'

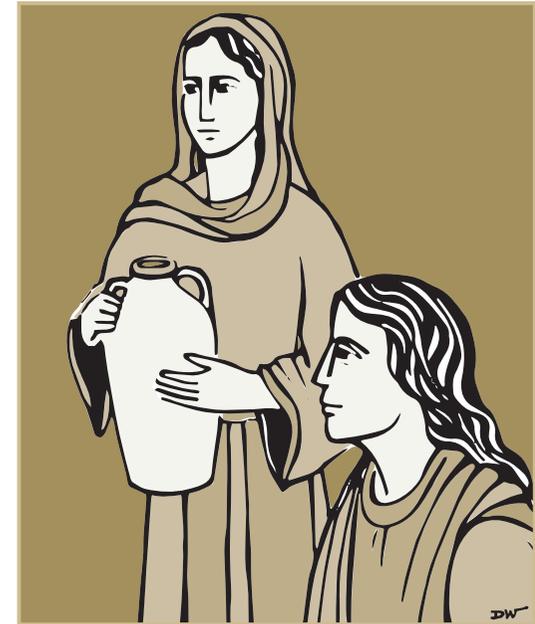
■ **The word of the Lord.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 14:2-5. R. v. 1

**R. 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 goddess 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

Col 1:24-28

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

*The mystery hidden for centuries has now been revealed to his saints.*

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