



WEPC Lectionary Project: *Union with Christ*

West End Presbyterian Church is using the Scripture readings recommended by the Revised Common Lectionary as a framework for our corporate worship and our personal and family devotion. This project is part of WEPC's 25th Anniversary Year and will run from December 2018 through November 2019. The Lectionary gives us access to the whole counsel of Scripture and these texts are a means for us to grow in our understanding of our union with Christ.

To learn more and subscribe to a daily email of Daily Scripture Readings, visit www.wepc.org/lectionary.

Sunday, July 21, 2019

The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost: Ordinary Time

[Genesis 18:1-10a](#) *The LORD Appeared to Abraham*

[Psalm 15](#) *He Who Walks Blamelessly*

[Colossians 1:15-28](#) *In Him All the Fullness of God was Pleased to Dwell*

[Luke 10:38-42](#) *Mary has Chosen the Good Portion*

Monday, July 22

[Psalm 119:97-104](#) *How Sweet Are Your Words*

[Exodus 18:1-12](#) *Now I Know that the LORD is Greater*

[Colossians 1:27-2:7](#) *God Chose to Make Known*

Tuesday, July 23

[Psalm 119:97-104](#) *How Sweet Are Your Words*

[Proverbs 9:1-18](#) *Wisdom & Folly*

[John 2:1-6](#) *Walk in the Same Way*

Wednesday, July 24

[Psalm 119:97-104](#) *How Sweet Are Your Words*

[Deuteronomy 12:1-12](#) *You Shall Eat Before the LORD*

[John 6:41-51](#) *Eat This Bread, Live Forever*

Thursday, July 25

[Psalm 138](#) *Your Right Hand Delivers Me*

[Esther 2:19-3:6](#) *Haman's Fury*

[Acts 1:15-20](#) *Judas Desolate*

Friday, July 26

[Psalm 138](#) *Your Right Hand Delivers Me*

[Esther 3:7-15](#) *Decreed That They Be Destroyed*

[Acts 2:22-36](#) *This Jesus Whom You Crucified*

Saturday, July 27

[Psalm 138](#) *Your Right Hand Delivers Me*

[Esther 4:1-17](#) *For Such a Time as This?*

[Luke 8:22-25](#) *Jesus' Disciples Cry Out*

The Good Portion

This week, Steve Shelby preached on [Luke 10:38-42](#).

³⁸ Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. ³⁹ And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." ⁴¹ But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, ⁴² but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."

- The story of Martha and Mary is the next story in the Gospel of Luke. Martha welcomed Jesus and she got busy, and then distracted. Mary sat at the Lord's feet and listened to His teaching. Martha assumes that she must "impress"
- Earlier in [Luke 10:5-7](#), Jesus had this to say to His disciples as He sent them out, "Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house!' and if a son of peace is there your peace will rest upon him...And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide...Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you."
- For most of us when confronted with any kind of challenge, our first default is to get busy. Busyness leads often to distraction and distraction leads us to be tempted to be bitter against others and ultimately the Lord.
- "If the churches came to understand that the greatest threat to faith today is not hedonism but distraction, perhaps they might begin to appeal anew to a frazzled digital generation. Christian leaders seem to think that they need more distraction to counter the distraction. Their services have degenerated into emotional spasms, their spaces drowned with light and noise and locked shut throughout the day, when their darkness and silence might actually draw those whose minds and souls have grown web-weary." (*Andrew Sullivan*)
- Jesus knows what's going on. He knows better than you. And He's in control. He's on the throne. And He's working. So to come and sit for a while is an expression of faith in that. Confidence. For while from our perspective, our experience, our feeling, everything is going wrong, and to hell in a handbasket, our view of things is far too limited to make right judgments. There is a bigger picture, and whether we know it or not, or whether it feels like it or not, Jesus is ruling all things for the good of His Church; for the good of His children.
- There is a confidence that comes from the knowledge that Jesus loves us.
- Jesus says there is "one thing that is necessary" (42)
- By cultivating listening to Jesus first, when it comes to time to act, distraction and bitterness will be less of a temptation.
- "The true Christian's portion is the grace of God. This is the 'good part' which he has chosen, and it is the only portion which really deserves the name of 'good.' It is the only good thing which is substantial, satisfying, real and lasting. It is good in sickness and good in health, good in youth and good in age, good in adversity and good in prosperity, good in life and good in death, good in time and good in eternity...The true Christian's possession shall never be taken from him. He alone, of all mankind, shall never be stripped of his inheritance. Kings must one day leave their palaces. Rich men must one day leave their money and lands. They only hold them till they die. But the poorest saint on earth has a treasure of which he will never be deprived. The grace of God and the favor of Christ are riches which no man can take from him. They will go with him to the grave when he dies. They will rise with him in the resurrection morning, and be his to all eternity." (*J. C. Ryle, Expository Thoughts on the Gospels, ad loc.*)

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Questions? Contact Pastor Kevin Greene, kevin@wepc.org