Today we hear our forebears in faith invite others to share a meal and fellowship with them. Abraham and Sarah welcome three strangers and insist they rest and eat. Martha and Mary welcome Jesus into their home, where Martha takes care of all the serving while Mary visits with him. Here today we too are invited to listen to God’s word and share a meal. Let us give thanks to God for this wonderful hospitality.

As we gather let us begin our service by professing what we believe.

_Profession of Faith p. 104_

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, (bow as we say) _and by the Holy Spirit he 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.

_Introductory Rite:
Greeting:_
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. _Amen._

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.
Blessed be God forever. _Blessed be God forever._

_Penitential Rite: p.6_
My brothers and sisters, to prepare ourselves for this celebration, let us call to mind our sins.

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. _Amen_

_Opening Prayer:_
Show favor, 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._

_Liturgy of the Word:_

_First Reading p. 90_
A reading from the Book of Genesis

_1st Reading Genesis 18:1-10a_

The LORD appeared to Abraham by the terebinth of Mamre, as he sat in the entrance of his tent, while the day was growing hot. Looking up, Abraham saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he ran from the entrance of the tent to greet them; and bowing to the ground, he said: "Sir, if I may ask you this favor, please do not go on past
your servant. Let some water be brought, that you may bathe your feet, and then rest yourselves under the tree. Now that you have come this close to your servant, let me bring you a little food, that you may refresh yourselves; and afterward you may go on your way." The men replied, "Very well, do as you have said."

Abraham hastened into the tent and told Sarah, "Quick, three measures of fine flour! Knead it and make rolls." He ran to the herd, picked out a tender, choice steer, and gave it to a servant, who quickly prepared it. Then Abraham got some curds and milk, as well as the steer that had been prepared, and set these before the three men; and he waited on them under the tree while they ate.

They asked Abraham, "Where is your wife Sarah?" He replied, "There in the tent." One of them said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah will then have a son."

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

**Responsorial Psalm: Page 90**

*Psalm 15:2-3, 3-4, 5*  
R/. He who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.  
**R/. He who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.**  

One who walks blamelessly and does justice; who thinks the truth in his heart and slanders not with his tongue. R/.  

Who harms not his fellow man, nor takes up a reproach against his neighbor; by whom the reprobate is despised, while he honors those who fear the LORD. R/.  

Who lends not his money at usury and accepts no bribe against the innocent. One who does these things shall never be disturbed. R/.  

**Second Reading:**  
A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians Colossians 1:24-28

Brothers and sisters: Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ on behalf of his body, which is the church, of which I am a minister in accordance with God's stewardship given to me to bring to completion for you the word of God, the mystery hidden from ages and from generations past. But now it has been manifested to his holy ones, to whom God chose to make known the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; it is Christ in you, the hope for glory. It is he whom we proclaim, admonishing everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

**Gospel:**  
Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus entered a village where a woman whose name was Martha welcomed him. She had a sister named Mary who sat beside the Lord at his feet listening to him speak. Martha, burdened with much serving, came to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me by myself to do the serving? Tell her to help me." The Lord said to her in reply, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her."

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
Reflection on the Word:

• In the era before inns or restaurants, travelers had to rely on the hospitality of strangers when they journeyed far from home. An upright person would be expected to provide for a traveler’s needs at a moment’s notice. Abraham and Sarah—and their servant—fulfill this expectation and then some when they see three journeying strangers outside their tent and insist they eat and rest. Though they had never seen these travelers before, their faith taught them to see the presence of the LORD in all people. And so it was that the God’s presence was manifested when they welcomed them with hospitality.

• It would appear that Martha is trying to show that same hospitality when welcoming Jesus into her home. She is serving him, and presumably cooking and preparing the meal as well. So why does Jesus not support her when she complains that her sister is not helping? Perhaps he is trying to teach her that there is more to hospitality than providing food and drink. Martha was attentive to Jesus’ physical needs, but Mary was attentive to Jesus’ mission. This, clearly, is “the better part” (Luke 10:42). Today, we are offered the better part, invited to listen to the Lord as we share in the meal he himself provides.

• Mary’s posture indicates that she has become a disciple of Jesus’. It is most unusual in the first century for an unmarried Jewish woman to sit at a man’s feet to listen to him speak. But it is consistent with the way Luke portrays Jesus treating women in his Gospel. Interestingly, it is in John’s Gospel that Mary is identified as the woman who anointed Jesus’ feet with oil just before he enters Jerusalem. Mary demonstrates both a contemplative and an active response to the presence of Jesus. We are encouraged to do both as well: listen to and worship the Lord, but also see the Lord in those in need and reach out and serve him in them.

Question of the Week

Am I hospitable to others, to those in need of food and rest, or just in need of company? Do I see the Lord in those in need?

Prayer of the Faithful:

When Martha was anxious and worried about many things, Jesus comforted her and assured her that she could take refuge in him. Let us call to mind our worries and anxieties and lay them at the Lord’s feet.

• For the Church, that we may welcome with open arms all those in need, bearing witness to God’s generosity, especially to the least among us, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

• For world leaders, that they may work together to care for our common home and its many residents, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

• For immigrants, refugees, those seeking asylum, and all who migrate in search of safety, security, and well-being, that they may find welcome in their new home, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

• For those who suffer in the summer’s extreme temperatures, especially seniors and those with difficult medical conditions, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

• That our community of faith may always exercise hospitality, inviting all those seeking a spiritual home, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

• For what else should we pray? Let us pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

• For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.
Generous God, shower us with your grace and mercy so that we may spread it all over the earth. Listen to the prayers we make and grant us your blessings, as you did for Sarah and Abraham, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Communion Rite**

*The Lord’s Prayer: p. 136*

Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us.

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*

*Rite of Peace:*

The sign of peace outwardly expresses a deep spiritual reality; through this sign we acknowledge Christ’s presence in each other and share the peace we have received from Him. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

**Communion:***

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

*Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.*

The body of Christ. **Amen.**

*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.**

**Concluding Rite:***

*Final Blessing:*

May the Lord bless us, ✝️ protect us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ! **Thanks be to God.**