

The Lutheran Church of the Covenant
***“Reaching Out, Reflecting Christ, Renewing
Lives”***



Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
July 17, 2022



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



We welcome you to worship here at the Lutheran Church of the Covenant! As long as the weather cooperates, we gather outside in God's Creation worship with singing and loud shouts of praise (if not, we will worship in the sanctuary).

- Bulletins and Communion (wheat or gluten-free wafers, wine or grape juice options) are available to be picked up at the side driveway. Please keep in mind potential wind that may affect your Communion cups.
- You may stay in your vehicle or setup a chair anywhere you like. Speakers will be set up front by the worship leaders so that everyone can hear and participate from their respective spots.
- We encourage you to participate throughout the worship by speaking the **bold** print and singing along with the hymns!
- You will not be asked to stand during the worship, so feel free to remain seated throughout.
- An offering basket is placed up-front by the podium.

Our Worship Leaders & Staff

Ministers
Presiding Minister
Pianist
Lector
Parish Administrator
Custodian

All People
The Rev. Bradley Ross
Robin Crawford
Harry Werner
Jennifer Lasher-Dobush
Vince Besednjak

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Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Perhaps the church, at its best, is “all ears.” God urges the faithful, again and again, to “listen up!”—to heed the word that gives life. So it was with Abraham and Sarah, Mary and Martha, and the early church at Colossae. So it is today as we join the assembly to hear the word of God, the word of life.

Prelude *Shall We Gather At the River?* (Logan)

Welcome & Greetings

Confession & Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, uniting us as one family in Christ, and setting us free to serve as his disciples for the sake of the world.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose steadfast love endures forever. **Amen!**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

**we confess that we have not always followed a path of steadfast love
but have often chosen our own way.**

**Instead of putting others before ourselves,
we long to take the best seats at the table.**

**When met by those in need,
we have too frequently passed by on the other side.**

Help us to see the path of new life and hope.

**Save us from ourselves,
and free us to love our neighbors with joy. Amen!**

Hear the good news! God does not deal with us according to our sins,
but thoroughly delights in granting pardon and mercy.

In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

You are set free to love as God loves the whole world. **Amen!**



1 Dear - est Je - sus, at your word we have come a -
 2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est
 3 Ra - diance of God's glo - ry bright, Light of Light from
 4 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, praise to you and



gain to hear you; let our thoughts and hearts be stirred
 dark - ness shroud - ed till your Spir - it breaks the night,
 God pro - ceed - ing, Je - sus, send your bless - ed light;
 ad - o - ra - tion! Grant us what we need the most:



and in glow - ing faith be near you as the prom - is -
 fill - ing us with light un - cloud - ed. All good thoughts and
 help our hear - ing, speak - ing, heed - ing, that our prayers and
 all your gos - pel's con - so - la - tion while we here on



es here giv - en draw us whol - ly up to heav - en.
 all good liv - ing come but by your gra - cious giv - ing.
 songs may please you, as with grate - ful hearts we praise you.
 earth a - wait you, till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619–1684, sts. 1–3; *Gesangbuch*, Berlin, 1707, st. 4; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, adapt.
 Music: LIEBSEER JESU, WIR SIND HIER, Johann R. Ahle, 1625–1673

Greeting

The grace of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all! **And also with you.**

Canticle of Praise *Now the Feast*

Refrain

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion,
all of cre - a - tion sings for joy
to the God of life and love and
free-dom: praise and glo - ry for ev -
er - more!

Verse 1

1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once
slain, whose blood has freed and u -
nit - ed us to be one great peo - ple of
God.

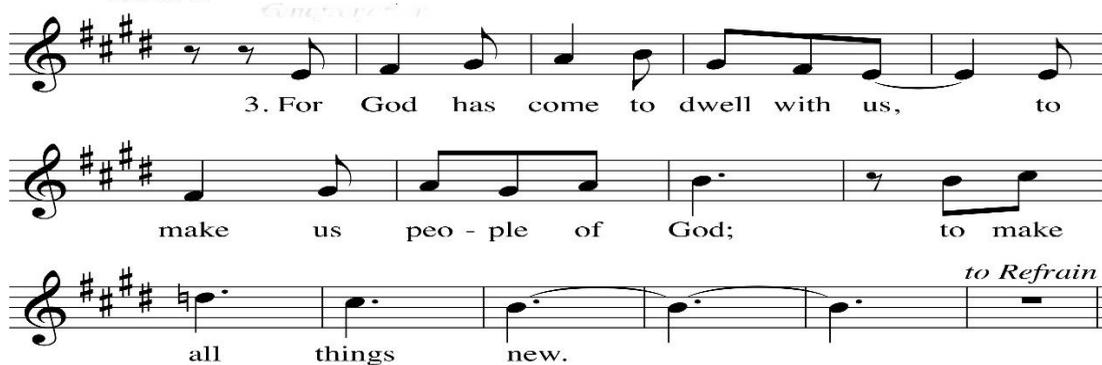
to Refrain

Verse 2



2. Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and
might, all hon - or and glo - ry to Christ
for ev - er. *to Refrain*

Verse 3



3. For God has come to dwell with us, to
make us peo - ple of God; to make
all things new. *to Refrain*

Prayer of the Day

Eternal God, you draw near to us in Christ, and you make yourself our guest. Amid the cares of our lives, make us attentive to your presence, that we may treasure your word above all else, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen!**

The LORD visits Abraham and Sarah to tell them that the long-awaited promise of the birth of a child will be fulfilled for them in their old age.

¹The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. ²He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. ³He said, “My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. ⁴Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. ⁵Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” ⁶And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, “Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.” ⁷Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. ⁸Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

⁹They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.” ^{10a}Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.”

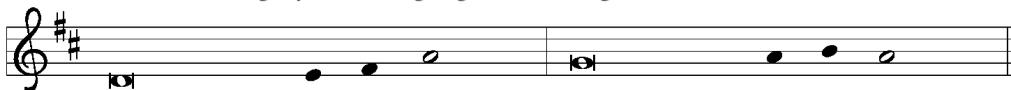
Word of God, word of life!

Thanks be to God!

Psalm

Psalm 15

The bold verses are sung by the congregation using the tone below.



Antiphon: *LORD, who may abide upon your holy hill?* (Ps. 15:1)

¹LORD, who may dwell in your | tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your | holy hill?

²**Those who lead a blameless life and do | what is right,
who speak the truth | from their heart; Antiphon**

³they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil | to their friends;
they do not cast discredit up- | on a neighbor.

**⁴In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who | fear the LORD.
They have sworn upon their health and do not take | back their word.**

⁵They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes a- | gainst the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be | overthrown. *Antiphon*

Second Lesson

Colossians 1:15-28

*This letter offers a mystical teaching, that the great mystery of God is “Christ in you.”
Because Christ is present in the church, Christians share in his life, suffering, and glory.*

¹⁵[Christ Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation;¹⁶for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

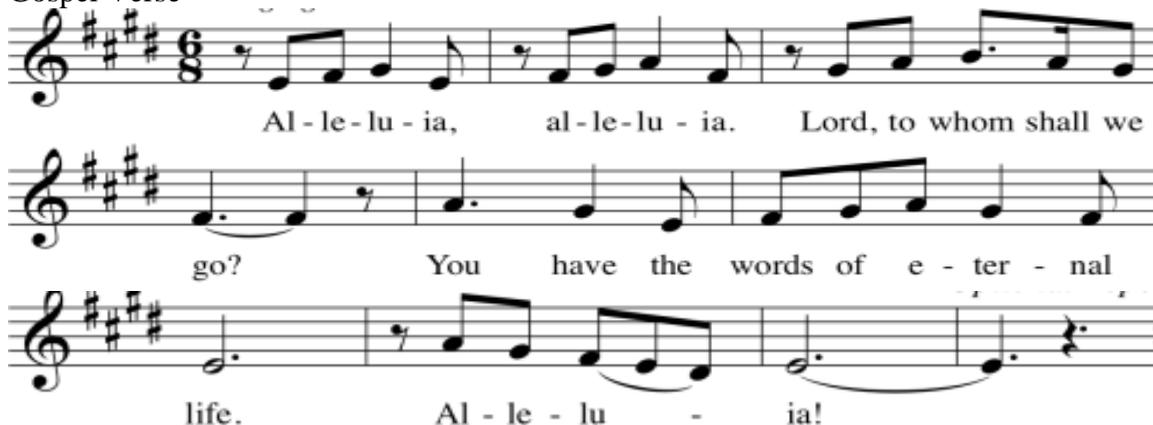
²¹And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²²he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him—²³provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel.

²⁴I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. ²⁵I became its servant according to God’s commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, ²⁶the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. ²⁷To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

Word of God, word of life!

Thanks be to God!

Gospel Verse



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life. Al - le - lu - ia!

Gospel

Luke 10:38:-42

During his visit to the home of Mary and Martha, Jesus reminds Martha that her concern for her many tasks distracts from the one thing that precedes all else: abiding in the presence of God.

The Gospel according to Luke, 10th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord!

³⁸Now as [Jesus and his disciples] went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. ³⁹She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. ⁴⁰But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." ⁴¹But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; ⁴²there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

This is the holy Gospel of our Lord!

Praise to you, O Christ!

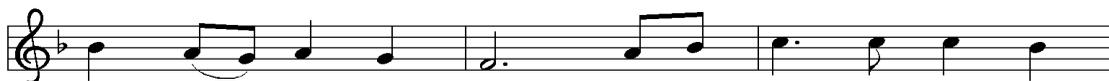
Sermon



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
 2 Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and words are strong and
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
 true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
 wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
 stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
 heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
 peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
 live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
 words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
 strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
 laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 claim the faith of Je - sus:
 Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
 end to fear and dan - ger:
 claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,
God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Prayers of Intercession

United in Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the creation, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Ever-present God, in Christ you fill all things. As your whole church gathers to hear your word, share your meal, and receive your blessing, teach our Covenant family to welcome strangers as we have been welcomed by you. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

It is our duty and delight that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, O God, through Jesus Christ who calls us to follow his way of humble service and love. And so with the church on earth and the host of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
 might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your
 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!
 Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy God,
 our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer,
 in the harmonious world of your creation,
 the plants and animals,
 the seas and stars
 were whole and well in your praise.

When sin had scarred the world,
you sent your Son to heal our ills
and to form us again into one.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,
his acts of healing,
his body given up,
and his victory over death,
we await that day when all the peoples of the earth
will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

Holy Spirit, continue to come upon us and upon this meal:
as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,
so let your church be gathered from the ends of the earth,
that all may be fed with the Bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
both now and forever.

Amen!

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy.
Taste the banquet of everlasting life!
Thanks be to God!

Communion

Music Interlude *'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus* (Thygeron)

Prayer after Communion

Life-giving God,
through this meal you have bandaged our wounds
and fed us with your mercy.
Now send us forth to live for others,
both friend and stranger,
that all may know your never-ending love.
This we pray in the name of Jesus, our Risen Lord.
Amen!

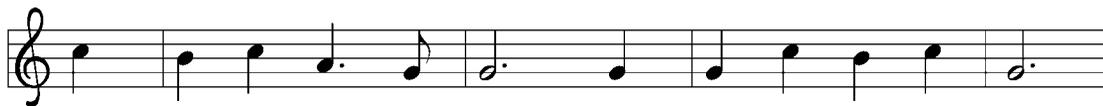
Blessing

The God of peace,
 Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
 bless you, comfort you,
 and show you the path of life
 this day and always. **Amen!**

Sending Hymn *When Morning Gilds The Skies* ELW #853



1 When morn - ing gilds the skies, my heart a - wak - ing cries:
 2 When mirth for mu - sic longs, this is my song of songs:
 3 No love - lier an - ti - phon in all high heav'n is known
 4 Let all of hu - man - kind in this their con - cord find:
 5 Sing, sun and stars of space, sing, all who see his face,



may Je - sus Christ be praised! When eve - ning shad - ows fall,
 may Je - sus Christ be praised! God's ho - ly house of prayer
 than "Je - sus Christ be praised!" There to the e - ter - nal Word
 may Je - sus Christ be praised! Let all the earth a - round
 sing, "Je - sus Christ be praised!" God's whole cre - a - tion o'er,



this rings my cur - few call: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
 has none that can com - pare with "Je - sus Christ be praised!"
 the e - ter - nal psalm is heard: oh, Je - sus Christ be praised!
 ring joy - ous with the sound: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
 to - day and ev - er - more shall Je - sus Christ be praised!

Text: German hymn, 19th cent.; tr. Robert Bridges, 1844–1930, alt.
 Music: LAUDES DOMINI, Joseph Barnby, 1838–1896

Dismissal

Go in peace. Love your neighbor as yourselves!
Thanks be to God!

Postlude *When Morning Gilds the Skies* (Shackley)

General Fund receipts for week ending 7/10/2022: \$2292

To the glory of God, and in loving memory of Bob Buettner, a memorial was given by Ann Droste.

Praying Together

... for those who are homebound, ill, hospitalized or recuperating: Gayle Agg, Joan Clarke, Barbara Fossa, Carolyn Frajter, Ken Frajter, Donna Franz, Nealie Gage, Barb Gaglione, Michelle Garnett, Rosa Garnett, Clare Hanusz, Alex Hohenstein, Dylan King, Jason Lanese, Sara Mendes, Debbie Morris, Phyllis Nemeth, Mary Ann Noll, Sam Reddig, Steve Senderak, Gary Smith, Arlene Stoltz, Marie Storms, Tom Susaneck, Phyllis Treichel, Phyllis Welker, Wilma Dancy, Bill Helmick, Nancy Helmick, Robert Lambrecht, Kim (Novak) Leonhardt, Laura Mele, Judy Morgan, Kris Sandor, Bill Wilkens, Eugene Winfrey, the Copeland/Lane Family.



We join oursiblings in Christ of Church of the Master for another summer of Picnic & Praise on Wednesday's through July 27, starting at 6pm with a potluck meal (feel free to bring something to offer to eat, if you like) and moving into a time of song and Scripture with reflection. We will gather at Covenant for the first time this Wednesday, July 20, and then for the final time next Wednesday, July 27. Come, let us worship the Lord!

Lectionary Blog: Time with God

I'm a bad host at dinner parties. I prepare the food so it's ready about 45 minutes after the guests are expected. I'm an introvert who quickly loses energy around people. And I go to bed early in order to take the morning shift with the kiddos. This represents a problem because my partner loves hosting parties. I get all worked up about providing food and making sure things are done at the correct time, so much so that when the time comes for the sobremesa, I'm exhausted. I focus too much on the process and not enough on spending time with our guests. Basically, I am Martha.

Most of the time, there's nothing wrong with being Martha. She has her own house, into which she invited Jesus and his traveling companions (and in Luke 10, we know there were at least 70!). As we've discussed elsewhere, Martha was probably the master of a combination pilgrim hostel, hospice and poorhouse. She was used to taking care of scores of guests who couldn't provide for themselves. She probably provided loving and lavish care for travelers, the poor and the dying. Certainly, Martha and her family are some of Jesus' most important friends outside of those who traveled with him. Martha is not to be faulted for her hospitality or for living out of Jesus' core instructions—to care for the hungry, the sick and the stranger.

Where Martha briefly falls afoul of Jesus is when she insists on her idea of gender roles for her sister. Mary had chosen to sit at Jesus' feet and listen to his teaching, just as his other female disciples were doing (Luke 8:2). Apparently, Martha was trying to listen to Jesus, too, but was distracted by the great service that she was trying to accomplish at the same time (10:40). Martha scolded Jesus for not insisting that Mary should help her sister instead of studying at his feet.

Jesus saw that Martha was anxious and distracted. But instead of agreeing with her that Mary should be helping with the preparations, he said the proper place for her sister—and Martha too—was sitting and studying with him. Jesus insisted that the position of women who study with him would not be taken away (10:42).

Jesus loved a dinner party, to be sure. And someone did need to make the food. But much more important than the hospitality was the time spent with Jesus, hearing his words, asking him questions, going back and forth, and wrestling with the ideas and practices of

the kingdom of God. If Jesus talked with people too long, he could simply multiply bread and fish, after all. Certainly the power that healed, drove out unclean spirits and raised Martha's brother from the dead could also cater a party!

Martha was free to listen or not, of course. She was free to take a seat at the front of the class with her sister or to undertake preparing food and a place to sleep for Jesus' massive entourage. What she was *not* free to do was dislodge Mary from her choice to learn from Jesus.

In Luke's second work, the book of Acts, we learn that the early church was characterized primarily by four verbs. Together they studied, hung out (fellowshipped), ate and prayed (Acts 2:42). This pattern was no doubt modeled on Jesus' interaction with his disciples. In the Gospels we see the disciples eating with Jesus, listening to him, asking questions, praying with him and just generally hanging out with their traveling rabbi.

Serving the poor, the dying and the traveler are exactly what Jesus wants us to do—and exactly what Jesus wanted Martha to do. But even these holy actions can be distractions that separate us from Jesus, who wants to teach us how to be disciples. This is, I suspect, a trap that most folks who engage in professional ministry fall into from time to time—doing the job so well and so completely that we lose touch with God who has called us to the work. Jesus offers a gentle corrective. Learning to spend time as a disciple at Jesus' feet is more important than even the holiest task. Jesus won't allow that blessing to be taken away from those who choose it.

This Lectionary Blog, and other sources for the journey of faith, available at LivingLutheran.org.



*Cory Driver is an ELCA missionary serving as the director of graduate studies at the Evangelical Theological Seminary of Cairo (Egypt). His book on wilderness spirituality, *Life Unsettled*, is available from Fortress Press.*

At the Feet of Jesus

"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her." Luke 10:41-42 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 10: 38-42



G A K B Z D B T T U J A H B L
 A N B I E E C T S S E G E K M
 N E E D E D M H S V S W L R P
 F X E I N S V I G S U J P T L
 S E Z A E E Y N J M S M F X T
 N J M M X R D G S I B T S E X
 C O E K A G W W X B E I S D U
 W H E M U R D P K E E P P V U
 B A O P R E T B F R U T J U K
 Y T T S I N D H E S J I T K U
 R X P R E U V T A L H B R E B
 X X R I D N S I U R M O E Q R
 X O S G Q I P R J L W X V V O
 W H R R S C O N O O G N N A F
 Y I L L S W O D B X K Z R Y T

FEET	NEEDED	WOMAN	NEEDED	MARY
CHOSEN	MARTHA	SISTER	JESUS	UPSET
THING	HELP	BETTER	WORRIED	WORK