

July 17 & 20, 2025
6th Sunday after Pentecost



Art inspired by the Gospel Lesson

Undivided Attention On the One Thing Needful

Most would agree with Jesus' teaching that "Few things are needed" (Luke 10:42). We understand that people often confuse their wants with needs. We might want many things; but in reality, we only need a few things. So, we would agree with Jesus. "Few things are needed." However, Jesus said more. "Few things are needed—or indeed only one." Now we might object. There seems to be more than one true need. We need water, food, clothing, shelter, friendship, etc. Yet, what Jesus said is true. Because only one thing—the gospel—can create and sustain the faith that makes one God's dear child and an heir of the everlasting kingdom. If you didn't have water, you would die in a few days; without oxygen, in a few minutes. But without Jesus speaking to us through his Word, there is no hope for eternal life in heaven. We literally need the gospel more than water or oxygen. So, let us listen to Jesus speak, giving him our undivided attention.



Opening Hymn

Speak, O Savior, I Am Listening *CW*²¹ 631:1-2



1 Speak, O Sav - ior, I am lis - t'ning, as a ser - vant
2 Oh, what bless - ing to be near you and to lis - ten

to his lord. Let me show re - spect and hon - or
to your voice; let me ev - er love and fear you,

to your ho - ly, pre - cious Word, that each day, my whole life
let your Word still be my choice! Man - y hard - ened sin - ners,

through, I may serve and fol - low you. Let your Word e'er
Lord, flee in ter - ror at your Word; but to all who

be my plea - sure and my heart's most pre - cious trea - sure.
feel sin's bur - den you give peace and words of par - don.

Text: Anna Sophia von Hessen-Darmstadt, 1638–1683; (st. 1): tr. Christian Worship, 1993; (st. 2): tr. George A. T. Rygh, 1860–1942, alt.

Tune: Johann Schop, c. 1590–1667

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Stand

INVOCATION AND CONFESSION OF SINS

Minister: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

M: God so loved the world that while we were yet sinners, Jesus Christ was given to die for us. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, God promises to heal us and forgive us. Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and one another.

Silence for personal reflection

M: Jesus invites you: *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28)*

C: We have come to the Lord’s house wearied by work and worries, and burdened by our problems, in need of the one thing needful.

M: Isaiah said of the Savior: *“A bruised reed He will not break,” (Isaiah 42:3)* and again: *“He was bruised for our iniquities...by His wounds we are healed.” (Isaiah 53:5)*

C: We have come bruised by the actions of others and bruised by our repeated falls into sin.

M: Isaiah says that God the Father sent Jesus *“to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives...to comfort all who mourn.” (Isaiah 61:1-2)*

C: We come broken in spirit because we cannot pay for our wrongs, broken in heart because we long for the peace of forgiveness.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS:

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given His only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Because of Jesus’ atoning work, God assures us in the Bible:

C: *“As far as the East is from the West, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.” (Psalm 103:12)*

M: He says, *“I will forgive their wickedness and I will remember their sins no more.” (Jeremiah 31:24)*

C: *“The blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin.” (1 John 2:7)*

M: After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples and said, *“Receive the Holy Spirit...*

C: *If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven.” (John 20:22,23)*

M: Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: May the God of Hope fill us with joy and peace in believing. Amen.

*Let us Go to the
House
of the Lord*

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Hymn

Speak, O Savior, I Am Listening *CW*²¹ 631:3-4



3 Lord, your words are wa - ters liv - ing where I quench my
4 As I pray, dear Je - sus, hear me; let your words in

thirst - y needs. Lord, your words are bread life - giv - ing;
me take root. May your Spir - it e'er be near me

on your words my spir - it feeds. Lord, your words will be my
that I bear a - bun - dant fruit. May I dai - ly sing your

light thro' death's cold and drear - y night; yes, they are my
praise, from my heart glad an - thems raise, till my high - est

sword pre - vail - ing and my cup of joy un - fail - ing.
praise is giv - en in the end - less joy of heav - en.

Text: Anna Sophia von Hessen-Darmstadt, 1638–1683; (st. 3): tr. George A. T. Rygh, 1860–1942, alt.; (st. 4): tr. Christian Worship, 1993

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Prayer of the Day

M Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your Word. By your Holy Spirit, help us to receive it with joy and bring forth fruits in faith, hope, and love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Be Seated

First Lesson

Genesis 18:1-14

With his gracious visit and gracious words, the Lord gives Sarah exactly what she needs most—a strengthened faith in God’s promise of a child.

¹The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he was sitting by the door to his tent during the heat of the day. ²Abraham looked up, and he saw three men standing in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them, and he bowed down to the ground. ³He said, “My lord, if I have now found favor in your sight, please do not pass your servant by. ⁴Now let me get a little water so that all of you can wash your feet and rest under the tree. ⁵Let me get some bread so that you can refresh yourselves. After that you may go your way. That is why you have come to your servant.”

They said, “Yes, do as you have said.”

⁶Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah and said, “Quickly prepare twenty quarts of fine flour, knead it, and make some loaves of bread.” ⁷Abraham ran to the herd, brought a good, tender calf, and gave it to the servant. He hurried to prepare it. ⁸He took cheese curds, milk, and the calf that he had prepared and set it before them. He stood beside them under the tree while they ate.

⁹They asked him, “Where is Sarah, your wife?”

He said, “She is over there in the tent.”

¹⁰One of the men said, “I will certainly return to you when this season comes around next year. Then Sarah your wife will have a son.”

Sarah was listening to this from the tent door, which was behind him. ¹¹Now Abraham and Sarah were old, well into old age. Sarah was past the age for childbearing. ¹²Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I am worn out, will I have pleasure, since my lord is also old?”

¹³The Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Will I really give birth to a child though I am old?’ ¹⁴Is anything impossible for the Lord? At the set time next year I will return to you, and Sarah will have a son.” (EHV)

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 119b CW⁹³

Refrain



Psalm tone



then I will keep them to the end.

Give me understanding, and I will keep your law*
and obey it with all my heart.

Direct me in the path of your commands,*
for there I find delight.

Refrain

Turn my eyes away from worthless things;*
preserve my life according to your Word.

Fulfill your promise to your servant,*
so that you may be feared.

How I long for your precepts!*
Preserve my life in your righteousness.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

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Second Lesson

Colossians 1:1-14

Through the gospel Christ gives us what we need—a faith which bears fruits in our individual lives and in his wider church.

¹Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

²To the holy and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

³We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love that you have for all the saints ⁵because of the hope that is stored up for you in heaven. You have already heard about this in the word of truth, the gospel ⁶that is present with you now. The gospel is bearing fruit and growing in the entire world, just as it also has been doing among you from the day you heard it and came to know the grace of God in truth. ⁷You learned this from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf. ⁸He is the one who told us about your love in the Spirit.

⁹For this reason, from the day we heard about your love, we also have not stopped praying for you. We keep asking that you would be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, ¹⁰so that you might live in a way that is worthy of the Lord. Our goal is that you please him by bearing fruit in every kind of good work and by growing in the knowledge of God, ¹¹as you are being strengthened with all power because of his glorious might working in you. Then you will have complete endurance and patience, joyfully ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.

¹³The Father rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (EHV)

Children's Devotion

Children are invited to come forward for a short devotion.

Hymn of the Day

Speak, O Lord *CW*²¹ 633



1 Speak, O Lord, as we come to you to re - ceive the food
2 Teach us, Lord, full o - be - di - ence, ho - ly rev - er - ence,
3 Speak, O Lord, and re - new our minds, help us grasp the heights



of your ho - ly Word; take your truth, plant it
true hu - mil - i - ty; test our thoughts and our
of your plans for us, truths un - changed from the



deep in us, shape and fash - ion us in your like - ness,
at - ti - tudes in the ra - di - ance of your pu - ri - ty.
dawn of time, that will ech - o down thro' e - ter - ni - ty.



that the light of Christ might be seen to - day in our acts of
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see your ma - jes - tic
And by grace we'll stand on your prom - is - es, and by faith we'll



love and our deeds of faith. Speak, O Lord, and ful -
love and au - thor - i - ty. Words of pow'r that can
walk as you walk with us. Speak, O Lord, till your



fill in us all your pur - pos - es for your glo - ry.
nev - er fail, let their truth pre - vail o - ver un - be - lief.
Church is built, and the earth is filled with your glo - ry.

Text: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Stuart Townend, b. 1963

Tune: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Stuart Townend, b. 1963

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Sermon

Luke 10:38-42

³⁸As they went on their way, Jesus came into a village, and a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. ³⁹She had a sister named Mary, who was sitting at the Lord's feet and was listening to his word. ⁴⁰But Martha was distracted with all her serving. She came over and said, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her to help me."

⁴¹The Lord answered and told her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things, ⁴²but one thing is needed. In fact, Mary has chosen that better part, which will not be taken away from her." (EHV)

WELS Connection

Stand

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Christ our Teacher, fill our hearts with joy when we hear your promises.

Direct us in the path of your commands. **Your Word is the one thing needed.**

Lord Jesus, our lives are busy with many things that upset and worry us. Daily the burdens of the world make us weary. Give us a love for your Word, that we read it, hear it, and find our wisdom and comfort in you.

Direct us in the path of your commands. **Your Word is the one thing needed.**

Your Word is precious because it is where we find you, our Savior. Have mercy on those who do not know you or have not heard your holy Word.

Direct us in the path of your commands. **Your Word is the one thing needed.**

You have entrusted the teaching of your Word to us, your Church. You have also called people among us to preach the Word, correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. Give all teachers of your Word wisdom and faithfulness.

Direct us in the path of your commands. **Your Word is the one thing needed.**

The devil rages against us, the world around us is full of temptations to do evil, and our sinful flesh tempts us to selfishness from within. With your mighty Word drive back the devil, instruct us in what is right and strengthen our faith as we follow you.

Direct us in the path of your commands. **Your Word is the one thing needed.**

Your Word brings healing to the soul. It also gives rest to those who are weary and burdened. Have mercy on those who struggle with pain, anxiety or health, [*especially...*]. If it is your will, bring them recovery and an end to pain. Uplift their hearts with the assurance of your love.

Direct us in the path of your commands. **Your Word is the one thing needed.**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

O Lord, in your righteousness give us new life. Turn our hearts toward your teachings. Turn our eyes away from worthless things. Give us understanding that we may keep your Word and hold on to it with all our hearts; we pray in your holy name: Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people.
 Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and
 bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns
 with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Benediction

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
 Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Be Seated

Closing Hymn

By Faith CW²¹ 868



1 By faith we see the hand of God
 2 By faith our fa - thers roamed the earth
 3 By faith the proph - ets saw a day



in the light of cre - a - tion's grand de - sign,
 with the pow'r of his prom - ise in their hearts,
 when the longed - for Mes - si - ah would ap - pear



in the lives of those who prove his faith - ful - ness,
 of a ho - ly cit - y built by God's own hand,
 with the pow'r to break the chains of sin and death



who walk by faith and not by sight. v. 2
 a place where peace and jus - tice reign. Refrain
 and rise tri - um - phant from the grave. v. 4

Refrain

We will stand as chil-dren of the prom - ise; we will fix our
 eyes on him, our soul's re - ward. Till the race is fin-ished and the
 work is done, we'll walk by faith and not by sight.

- 4 By faith the church was called to go
 in the pow'r of the Spirit to the lost
 to deliver captives and to preach good news
 in ev'ry corner of the earth. (Refrain)
- 5 By faith this mountain shall be moved
 and the pow'r of the gospel shall prevail,
 for we know in Christ all things are possible
 for all who call upon his name. (Refrain)

Text: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Kristyn Getty, b. 1980; Stuart Townend, b. 1963

Tune: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Kristyn Getty, b. 1980; Stuart Townend, b. 1963; arr. Ruth N. Coleman, b. 1953

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Prayer of the Church

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