

July 20th, 2025 Lectionary Notes

The Readings on This Day

****Click on the links for the Bible Verse(s)*

Sunday, July 17–23

Lectionary 16

We join with Martha, Mary, Luke, the ancient Yahwist narrator, the later editor of Genesis, the anonymous poet of the Psalm, the author of Colossians, and perhaps even the Colossian community singing its hymn to welcome Christ to our table and hear his word. This is no “ordinary” Sunday.

[Genesis 18:1-10a](#)

The narrative of Abraham serving a meal to the three visitors, who are addressed as “my lord” and who then speak as one, is set next to Luke 10 because in both stories, God eats with the people and delivers a word of grace. Especially Orthodox Christians have used this story as their primary depiction of the Trinity, and in many Orthodox churches, there is an icon of this story over the great doors to the altar.

[The Psalm for the Day](#)

In response to the story of Abraham’s meal with the mysterious three, we join together in [Psalm 15](#), which describes the blameless life of those who meet with God. We might think of Abraham as one such blameless person. Christians know that they have not lived in this perfect way, and so we are glad to receive the Colossians hymn to Christ, who has.

[Colossians 1:15-28](#)

This passage praises the Christ with whom the assembly now gathers at table. The guest and host of our meal is the embodied God, the creator, the reconciler, and the hope of future glory. Yet this one is the crucified Christ, for the firstborn of all creation is also the firstborn from the dead. This reading holds the divine Christ creating the universe next to Jesus eating at Martha’s table.

[Luke 10:38-42](#)

To sit at the feet of Jesus and receive the word of God is given now to us. Each Sunday we sit at table with Jesus along with Martha and Mary. Preachers are advised to avoid fantasizing about the relationship between the sisters, which disregards the point of the story.

