

July 19th, 2026 Lectionary Notes

The Readings on This Day

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

Sunday, July 17–23

Lectionary 16

Following the thoughtful complexity of the lectionary, the standard Sundays continue to read Matthew in light of Romans.

[Isaiah 44:6-8](#)

The poem from Isaiah is chosen to parallel Matthew's word that God, not the community, is the judge. As if in self-defense during a court trial, God claims to be the ultimate authority.

[The Psalm for the Day](#)

Having heard from Isaiah God's declaration of divine identity, we respond by singing [Psalm 86:11-17](#), which praises God's name. The Isaian situation of a courtroom scene is echoed in the psalm, as we beg God to support us with compassion when others set out to attack us.

[Romans 8:12-25](#)

The reading from Romans expands this Sunday's picture of God, who is not only the righteous judge, but also the welcoming father. Believers are not only part wheat, part weeds, but also adopted children, who await both divine judgment and glorious freedom.

[Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43](#)

Much of Matthew's Gospel describes Christians as living in righteousness. Yet the parable of the wheat and the weeds warns against our tendency to identify who is evil and who is good. Christ, the Son of Man, is the judge.

