

July 26th, 2026 Lectionary Notes

The Readings on This Day

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

Sunday, July 24–30

Lectionary 17



The standard Sundays continue to encounter Matthew in light of Romans and to move from the word to the table.

[1 Kings 3:5-12](#)

Tradition has idealized the wisdom of Solomon. Christians recognize Jesus Christ as the divine wisdom who embodies both blessing and judgment and who speaks to the church in surprising parables.

[The Psalm for the Day](#)

Psalm 119 is the long acrostic psalm that praises the law of God. Set up alphabetically, the psalm symbolizes all the knowledge that comes from keeping the law. In responding to the story of Solomon's petition for wisdom, we sing the "P" section, [Psalm 119:129-136](#), in which the psalmist likens the word of God to light. God's face is shining on us, as if we also are seeing a vision of God in our dreams.

[Romans 8:26-39](#)

As we ready ourselves to hear Matthew's warning about a final judgment, we rejoice to share Paul's confidence in the overarching love of God is for us. Christ is interceding for us, transforming all things with the paradoxical wisdom of the cross. It is Christ who was slaughtered for us.

[Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52](#)

It is too easy to rush through these parables without encountering the surprises: the mustard bush is not, in fact, a great tree; the woman is baking leavened, thus nonreligious, bread; the treasure calls for total commitment; the net includes both eatable fish and trash. Many but not all Christians have literalized Matthew's apocalyptic imagery about punishment following the final judgment.