

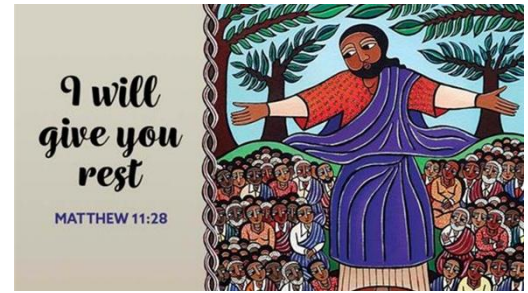
July 5th, 2026 Lectionary Notes

The Readings on This Day

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

Sunday, July 3–9

Lectionary 14



Our Sundays of assembly around the table continue to hear honest words from Matthew and Reformation theology from Paul. For citizens of the United States, this week includes Independence Day, which celebrates a worldview quite different from that presented in the readings.

[Zechariah 9:9-12](#)

Year A has already heard from this passage in the processional gospel for Passion/Palm Sunday, since Matthew cites this prophecy of a king arriving in Jerusalem on a donkey as fulfilled in Jesus. On this Sunday, the passage says that only the true king will bring peace. Thus the passage is linked with Jesus' promise of rest.

[The Psalm for the Day](#)

In the first reading, God promises a king on a donkey, the end of war, and freedom for prisoners. We respond by singing [Psalm 145:8-14](#), which praises God for mighty deeds and an everlasting kingdom, for we hope in Christ, whom Christians see in Zechariah's images.

[Galatians 5:1-15](#)

is the Apostle Paul's passionate defense of **Christian liberty**, where he argues that believers are completely freed by Christ's grace. He warns against "legalism" (trying to earn salvation through rules) and urges believers to channel their freedom into **serving one another through love**

[Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30](#)

This beloved passage, "Come to me, and I will give you rest," contrasts with the earlier sentence, that Christians are indeed wearing the yoke of Christ. Some Christians have found such biblical passages about the Father's enigmatic will as fundamental to their faith.