

Sunday, July 18, 2010
Lectionary 16
Proper 11
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

READINGS

Genesis 18:1–10a
Amos 8:1–12 (Semi-continuous)
Psalm 15
LORD, who may abide upon your holy hill? (Ps. 15:1)
Psalm 52 (Semi-continuous)
I am like a green olive tree in the house of God. (Ps. 52:8)
Colossians 1:15–28
Luke 10:38–42

FIRST READING: Genesis 18:1–10a

The Lord visits Abraham and Sarah to tell them that the long—awaited promise of the birth of a child will be fulfilled for them in their old age.

The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. ²He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. ³He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. ⁴Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. ⁵Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on — since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." ⁶And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." ⁷Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. ⁸Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

⁹They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent."
¹⁰Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son."

FIRST READING (SEMI-CONTINUOUS): Amos 8:1–12

Amos announces God's judgment upon the people of Israel, who sin by oppressing the poor and

engaging in deceitful business practices. Amos uses a Hebrew wordplay: a basket of summer fruit (qayits) symbolizes the end (qets) of Israel. That end will come through a famine of hearing the word of the Lord.

This is what the Lord GOD showed me — a basket of summer fruit. ²He said, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A basket of summer fruit." Then the LORD said to me,

"The end has come upon my people Israel;
I will never again pass them by.

³The songs of the temple shall become wailings in that day,"
says the Lord GOD;

"the dead bodies shall be many,
cast out in every place. Be silent!"

⁴Hear this, you that trample on the needy,
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,

⁵saying, "When will the new moon be over
so that we may sell grain;
and the sabbath,

so that we may offer wheat for sale?
We will make the ephah small and the shekel great,
and practice deceit with false balances,

⁶buying the poor for silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals,
and selling the sweepings of the wheat."

⁷The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

⁸Shall not the land tremble on this account,
and everyone mourn who lives in it,
and all of it rise like the Nile,
and be tossed about and sink again, like the Nile of Egypt?

⁹On that day, says the Lord GOD,
I will make the sun go down at noon,
and darken the earth in broad daylight.

¹⁰I will turn your feasts into mourning,
and all your songs into lamentation;
I will bring sackcloth on all loins,
and baldness on every head;
I will make it like the mourning for an only son,
and the end of it like a bitter day.

¹¹The time is surely coming, says the Lord GOD,
when I will send a famine on the land;
not a famine of bread, or a thirst for water,
but of hearing the words of the LORD.

¹²They shall wander from sea to sea,
and from north to east;
they shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the LORD,
but they shall not find it.\

PSALM (ELW): Psalm 15

LORD, who may abide upon your holy hill? (Ps. 15:1)

¹LORD, who may dwell in your | tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your | holy hill?

²**Those who lead a blameless life and do | what is right,
who speak the truth | from their heart; R**

³they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil | to their friends;
they do not cast discredit up- | on a neighbor.

⁴**In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who | fear the LORD.
They have sworn upon their health and do not take | back their word.**

⁵They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes a- | gainst the innocent.
Those who do these things shall never be | overthrown. R

PSALM (ELW) (SEMI-CONTINUOUS): Psalm 52

I am like a green olive tree in the house of God. (Ps. 52:8)

¹You mighty, why do you | boast of wickedness
against the godly | all day long?

²**Continually | you plot ruin;
your tongue is like a sharpened razor that com- | mits deceit.**

³You love evil | more than good
and lying more than speak- | ing the truth.

⁴**You love all words | that devour,
O you de- | ceitful tongue. R**

⁵Oh, that God would demol- | ish you utterly,
topple you, and snatch you from your dwelling, and root you out of the land | of the
living!

⁶**The righteous shall see | and be awestruck,
and they shall laugh | at you, saying,**

⁷"This is the one who did not take God | for a refuge,
but trusted in great wealth and found strength | in destruction."

⁸**But I am like a green olive tree in the | house of God;
I trust in the steadfast love of God forev- | er and ever.**

⁹I will thank you forever for what | you have done;
in the presence of the faithful I will long for your name, for | it is good. R

SECOND READING: Colossians 1:15–28

Sometimes Paul preaches with great attention to theological concepts. Here, however, Paul offers a mystical teaching, that the great mystery of God is "Christ in you." Because Christ is present in the church, Christians share in his life, suffering, and glory.

¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; ¹⁶for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers — all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

²¹And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²²he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him — ²³provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel.

²⁴I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. ²⁵I became its servant according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, ²⁶the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. ²⁷To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

GOSPEL: Luke 10:38–42

Jesus uses his visit to two sisters as an occasion to remind disciples that an important aspect of obedience is singleminded devotion to Jesus and his word.

³⁸Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. ³⁹She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. ⁴⁰But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." ⁴¹But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; ⁴²there is need of only one thing.

Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."