

**Sunday 20 July 2025,
Trinity 5**

Collect:

Almighty God,
send down upon your Church
the riches of your Spirit,
and kindle in all who minister the gospel
your countless gifts of grace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Readings for this week:

Genesis 18:1-10a; Psalm 15; Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42

Hospitality and the entertaining of angels while unaware of their identity dominates the first reading from Genesis. However, if the passage had finished at verse 15, its more natural ending, we would appreciate that the main thrust of this episode is divine care and the promise of descendants, a further step in the fulfilment of the earlier promises to Abraham recorded in Genesis 12. Abraham's meeting with three men at Mamre, a traditional holy place, begins with his welcome and his offer of generous hospitality, described through many details: washing their feet, making large quantities of fresh bread from finest ingredients, preparing the most succulent of calves. We know, from the first line of the reading, what is withheld from Abraham, that his guests are the Lord. However, we also see Abraham acting as a model of faithfulness. The character and nature of a righteous person are picked up by Psalm 15, which lists a number of attributes required before it was felt possible for someone to approach God's sanctuary.

The text from Colossians opens with two stanzas of an early Christian hymn (15-20), praising Christ as the head of the created order, before moving on to describe the effect of Christ's work on the Colossian community and on Paul's ministry. Paul's hope is that everyone will become 'mature in Christ', signs of that maturity being also reflected in the faithfulness and hospitality of Abraham and the description of the righteous in Psalm 15.

Finally, in the Gospel, Martha is so focussed on the mechanics of hospitality that she neglects to attend to the actual and specific needs of her guest, Jesus. While in the episode immediately preceding this one, the parable of the Good Samaritan, generous action is righteous, here generous listening is the faithful path to take, attending to God's words. The hard task is discerning when to act and when to listen, because both are necessary for holy living.

Grant, O Lord, we beseech you,
that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered
by your governance,
that your Church may joyfully serve you in all godly quietness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Readings for next week:

Genesis 18:20-32; Psalm 138; Colossians 2:6-15; Luke 11:1-13
Trinity 6