

16th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Year C

Reading 1

**Citation: Genesis, Chap. 18, Verses 1-10a
Genesis 18: 1-10a**

Abraham is the consummate host! He is solicitous of his visitors and determined to provide the best he can for them during their brief stopover. Take your time and let the story develop. But, as the meal is being prepared Abraham is rushing – pick up your pace, too. At the close, the visitors over a gift beyond Abraham's wildest dreams. Be very serious, here, to highlight that this is God promising!

A reading from the Book of Genesis

The LORD appeared to Abraham by the terebinth of Mamre,
as he sat in the entrance of his tent,
while the day was growing hot.

(parenthetical?)
(parenthetical?) (short pause)

Looking up,
Abraham saw three men standing nearby.
When he saw them,
he ran from the entrance of the tent to greet them;
and bowing to the ground,
he said:

(very short pause)

"Sir,
if I may ask you this favor,
please do not go on past your servant.
Let some water be brought,
that you may bathe your feet,
and then rest yourselves under the tree.

(deference and hospitality
(in you voice – this section
(-- eager to please attitude

Now that you have come this close to your servant,
let me bring you a little food,
that you may refresh yourselves;
and afterward you may go on your way."

(parenthetical)
(very short pause)

The men replied, "Very well, do as you have said."

(short pause)

Abraham hastened into the tent and told Sarah,
"Quick, three measures of fine flour!
Knead it and make rolls."

(increase pace – excited --
(this section
(very short pause)

He ran to the herd,
picked out a tender, choice steer,
and gave it to a servant,
who quickly prepared it.

(two stresses here)

(very short pause)

Then Abraham got some curds and milk,
as well as the steer that had been prepared,

(a little slower – this sentence)

Proclaim the Word!

Proclamation Format

and set these before the three men;
and he waited on them under the tree while they ate.

(pause)

They asked Abraham,
"Where is your wife Sarah?"

(solicitous)

He replied, "There in the tent."

("as though you didn't know?")

One of them said,
"I will surely return to you
about this time next year,
and Sarah will then have a son."

(estimating – not sure)
(assured! confident!)

The word of the Lord.

16th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Year C

Reading 2

Citation: Colossians, Chap. 1, Verses 24-28
Colossians 1: 24-28

Paul's definition of what he means to be "in Christ." He is insistent throughout; persistent in his attempt to help his community understand the difference Jesus and the "Good News" makes in one's life and living. Be Paul!

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians

Brothers and sisters: (you're a teacher; authority)
Now I rejoice in my sufferings
for your sake, (almost parenthetical) (very short pause)
and in my flesh
I am filling up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ
on behalf of his body, (parenthetical)
which is the church, (be convinced of this idea)
of which I am a minister (very positive)
in accordance with God's stewardship given to me (parenthetical)
to bring to completion for you
the word of God, (reverently)
the mystery hidden from ages and from generations past. (short pause)

But now
it has been manifested to his holy ones,
to whom God chose to make known the riches of the glory of this mystery (almost parenthetical) (very short pause)
among the Gentiles;
it is Christ in you, (each word separately & emphatically)
the hope for glory.
It is he whom we proclaim,
admonishing everyone
and teaching everyone (insistent)
with all wisdom, (humility)
that we may present everyone perfect (each of the 2 words emphatically)
in Christ. (confident affirmation!)

The word of the Lord.

16th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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GOSPEL

Citation: Luke, Chap. 10, Verses 38-42
Luke 10: 38-42

The story of Jesus meeting Mary and Martha. Tell it gently and in a friendly tone of voice. Show Jesus' understanding compassion for Martha. He is not berating Martha but is gently trying to help her recognize that she still has much to learn about living in a "right" relationship to God.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus entered a village where a woman
whose name was Martha
welcomed him.

(somewhat parenthetical)
(very short pause)

She had a sister named Mary
who sat beside the Lord at his feet
listening to him speak.

(short pause)

Martha,
burdened with much serving,
came to him and said,

(not quite parenthetical)

"Lord,
do you not care that my sister has left me by myself to do the serving?
Tell her to help me."

(she's upset NOT angry)
(almost childish?)

The Lord said to her in reply,
"Martha, Martha,
you are anxious and worried about many things.
There is need of only one thing.
Mary has chosen the better part
and it will not be taken from her."

(gently, reassuring)
(factual)

(firm)
(kindly)

The Gospel of the Lord.