



## Worship resources Trinity 9

Evangelism is not a popular word today. Many Christians shy away from sharing their faith because of all the baggage that has been accumulated over the years. But, our faith is public, not private, and as followers of Christ we are called to participate in God's work of saving the world. This week the Lectionary invites us to explore how we might approach this challenging, but exciting call.

May our faith be strengthened as we worship, and may we be transformed that little bit more into those who reflect Christ's life and message.

### INTRODUCTIONS

*For use by lectors, in order of service, parish bulletins and magazines*

#### **Genesis 37 : 1-4, 12-18**

Jacob has been renamed Israel, from whose 12 sons sprang all the tribes. We are now introduced to Joseph, who eventually becomes saviour of the rest. But the story begins with the plot to do away with his dangerous dreamer.

#### **1 Kings 19 : 9-18**

For Elijah, the presence and the will of God are found in a quiet voice with an extraordinary commission. Despite the nation's defeat, he is to anoint new kings. Our Gospel will also speak of Jesus going into the quiet before once more doing an extraordinary thing.

#### **Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b**

A psalm of thanksgiving and celebration of what God has done as the psalmist remembers Joseph.

#### **or Psalm 85: 8 - 13**

The psalmist commits to listening to God and calls God's people to stay away from foolishness, while receiving God's salvation, righteousness, truth and blessing.

#### **Romans 10 : 5-15**

Paul continues to set out his understanding of how christian faith follows from Jewish faith. before, there was only law of obedience; now, all who confess Jesus as Lord, Jews and everyone else, are put right with God.

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### Matthew 14 : 22-33

After miraculously feeding several thousand people, Jesus takes time for renewal and private reflection, then rejoins his disciples in the mystery of walking on water Surely now they will see who he truly is.

[http://bible.oremus.org/?show\\_adj=no&passages=%0AGenesis 37: 1-4, 12-28%0A%2BOR%0A1 Kings 19: 9-18%0Acw Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b%0A%2BOR%0APsalm 85: 8-13%0ARomans 10: 5-15%0AMatthew 14: 22-33](http://bible.oremus.org/?show_adj=no&passages=%0AGenesis 37: 1-4, 12-28%0A%2BOR%0A1 Kings 19: 9-18%0Acw Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b%0A%2BOR%0APsalm 85: 8-13%0ARomans 10: 5-15%0AMatthew 14: 22-33)

### COLLECTS OF THE DAY

#### Collect One

Grant to us, Lord, we beseech thee,  
the spirit to think and do always  
such things as be rightful;  
that we, who cannot do any thing  
that is good without thee,  
may by thee be enabled to live according to thy will;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### Collect Two

Almighty God,  
who sent your Holy Spirit  
to be the life and light of your Church:  
Open our hearts to the riches of his grace,  
that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit  
in love and joy and peace;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In the storms of our lives, we walk to You, Lord, praying that we may not fall. Hear the prayers of Your people and grant us grace sufficient for every need. (*Silence for prayer*)

Once Job cried out to You and You invited Him to trust in Your mercy and not in his own understanding. Give us such faith that in every need and adversity we may be consoled not by explanations but by Your all sufficient grace in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Lord, in Your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Bless Your Church and those who serve us in Your name that they may bring Your Word to us with faithful and fervent preaching, teaching, and devotion to Your means of grace. Raise up women and men who will hear and heed Your call to service, and bless the theological institute of our Church where these women and men are formed in their pastoral vocation, that Your people may be strengthened in faith and those who do not know You may hear the good news of the Gospel.

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Lord, in Your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Raise up faithful leaders in this and every land, that everywhere people may enjoy the freedom to worship You, justice to protect them, and protection from violence and oppression. Bless especially the men and women of our armed forces as they serve the cause of peace throughout the world.

Lord, in Your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Speak peace to the hearts and minds of the troubled. Give us patience and equal dedication to care for those with mental illness as we do for those with physical afflictions. Grant healing and relief to all the sick, the suffering, the grieving, and the dying [including, *individual names may be mentioned here*]. According to Your will, grant them every aid and comfort in their need and restore them by Your grace in Christ.

Lord, in Your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You supported Peter in his doubts and fears. Keep us from sinking into despair when we suffer the troubles and trials of this mortal life. Grant us Your Spirit that our hearts may not waver, and keep us in the grasp of Your grace that we may not lose our way or be overcome by weariness and struggle.

Lord, in Your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We have so much that we call our own. Remind us that all good gifts come from Your giving love. Teach us to use wisely, faithfully, and for Your glory all that You have entrusted to our care. Even now we pray You to receive the tithes and offerings we bring as part of our worship and symbols of our faith and trust.

Lord, in Your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Prepare us that we who come to Your Table may receive with faith all that is given to us in the communion of Your body and blood. Bring us to the true unity of Your Word, that we may be united in confession even as we are one at the table of our Lord.

Lord, in Your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

All things are Yours, O Lord, and yet You graciously have given us all things in Christ. Grant us trusting hearts, that what we have prayed with our lips we may show forth in our lives. Into Your hands we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

**POST COMMUNION**

Holy Father,  
who gathered us here around the table of your Son  
to share this meal with the whole household of God:  
In that new world where you reveal the fulness of your peace,  
gather people of every race and language  
to share in the eternal banquet  
of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**PRAYERS**

Through the storms of life, O God,  
you are with your people  
in the person of Jesus your Son.  
Calm our fears and strengthen our faith  
that we may never doubt his presence among us  
but proclaim that he is your Son,  
risen from the dead,  
living for ever and ever. Amen.

God of awe, from whom we flee in holy terror:  
your silence burns like ice;  
your whisper cuts through fear;  
we long to hear your faithful word  
of righteousness and peace.  
Bless us with bold belief  
even in the darkness of the night  
and the assault of life's storms,  
that we may be messengers of your justice,  
in the name of the One whom wind and wave obey. Amen.

Eternal God,  
you are present with us throughout our lives,  
even when others plot to do us harm.  
May we learn to live together in unity,  
that in all we do,  
we may sing your praises now and forever. Amen.

Lord God, friend of those in need,  
your Son Jesus has untied our burdens  
and healed our spirits.  
We lift up the prayers of our hearts for those still burdened,  
those seeking healing,  
those in need within the church and the world.

Loving God,  
open our ears to hear your word  
and draw us closer to you,  
that the whole world may be one with you  
as you are one with us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God of mercy and healing,  
you who hear the cries of those in need,  
receive these petitions of your people  
that all who are troubled  
may know peace, comfort, and courage.  
Life-giving God,  
heal our lives,  
that we may acknowledge your wonderful deeds  
and offer you thanks from generation to generation  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God of salvation,  
who sent your Son to seek out and save what is lost,  
hear our prayers  
on behalf of those who are lost in our day,  
receiving these petitions and thanksgivings  
with your unending compassion.  
Redeeming Sustainer,  
visit your people  
and pour out your strength and courage upon us,  
that we may hurry to make you welcome  
not only in our concern for others,  
but by serving them  
generously and faithfully in your name. Amen.

## LECTIONARY NOTES 1

### **Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28:**

- I have to say, I'm not surprised the brothers resented Joseph. Jacob clearly had favorites, even as he was his mother's favorite. Even in my own family, we tease and joke about all of us being my mother's favorite. But here the favoritism is real - how would you act knowing that your parent loved your sibling more than you?
- "here comes this dreamer" - what a nickname, eh? They mean it as criticism, but it is actually what makes and saves and guides Joseph, isn't it? What if we had and embraced more dreamers in our church?
- We get just bits of Joseph's whole story in the next two weeks, but it is a great story. If you've seen the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, you've seen how fun it can be brought to life. Can you bring it to life somehow for your congregation?

### **Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b:**

Verses 1-5 are right on target for me: Remember to praise God all the time, because God has done some pretty amazing things for you. It is amazing how easily we forget God's role in all that we claim as our own goodness.

- Verses 16-22 tie back to the Old Testament lesson about Joseph. OK, I guess having this part today makes sense ;)!
- 45b makes a nice end, while skipping many verses: "praise God!"

**Romans 10:5-15:**

- "...confess with your lips", "believe in your heart" "you will be saved." This is an interesting passage, certainly one that supports the doctrine of sola fide, the idea that we are saved by faith alone (without works required.) It makes it sound so simplistic - all we need to do to be 'saved' (read in Greek as: safety/health/safe) is say that Jesus is Lord. Simple, right? "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." Is there depth in that faith? Indeed, this belief seems to be frequently uttered in more conservative denominations/non-denominational churches - a great emphasis on declaring Jesus as Lord and Savior. I'm not sure Paul is trying to give us anything so simplistic here...
- ...because the rest of Paul's writings lead me to believe that Paul would not have advocated some 'magic words' we can say that bring us God's salvation. Paul knew better than that, and if that's all we hear in this passage, we've missed some important verses at the end. "For there is NO DISTINCTION BETWEEN JEW AND GREEK; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him." I think actually Paul is insisting here that believers don't need to be part of the Jewish faith or complete Jewish rituals to be part of the plan of salvation - they just need to connect with Christ, find belief in Christ. This passage speaks of the open and inclusive nature of salvation. Indeed, GOOD NEWS!

I love the closing of this passage - "how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him?" Good news to share? Share it!

**Matthew 14:22-33:**

- Peter is the only one who risks walking on water, and yet he is the one Jesus declares has "little faith." Is that fair? It reminds me of the parable of the talents - the one who has the most is given the most. Perhaps in this case, the one who can give the most has the most demanded of them? Or perhaps Peter, who has been so close to Jesus, should have been most able to have faith. What do you think?
- Being on a boat in a storm is scary enough today, with all our safety measures. I can't imagine it was much fun in Jesus' day.
- Why do you think the disciples didn't recognize Jesus? Sure, he was walking on water. Hadn't he done other unbelievable things before? How does God show up in your life in unbelievable ways?

*By Beth Quick*

**LECTIONARY NOTES 2**

**REFLECTIONS ON THEME:**

The readings this week all tell stories of rescue and salvation. In each of them, there is a person who is tasked with bringing God's rescue to others. In Genesis it's Joseph who, although he goes through immense suffering, will rescue Egypt (as we know from Psalm 105). In Kings, it's Elijah who hears God's instructions (as the Psalmist commits to do in Psalm 85) and rescues God's people from corrupt leaders. In Romans, Paul celebrates the faith that responds to God's word, and the ones who proclaim the word so that people can believe. Finally, in the Gospel, it's Jesus who rescues Peter and the disciples as the storm threatens to overwhelm them, and who, in doing this, leads them to faith. Ultimately all rescuers point us to Christ and call us to respond to Christ in faith. But, at the same time, the Scriptures call us to be the ones who proclaim God's nearness, and who invite others

to find salvation in Christ. It's a challenging call, and one that has often been understood in destructive, arrogant and hurtful ways. But, when we recognise that beneath the call is God's grace, and that, as Paul says, it is not our job to question who will "go to heaven" and who will "descend to the place of the dead", we can embrace God's call to be those who graciously and compassionately reach out to others with a genuine concern for their sakes.

**CONNECTING WITH LIFE:**

**GLOBAL APPLICATION:** There have tended to be two responses to the call to bring salvation to the world. On the one hand, Christ-followers have viewed this in purely spiritual terms, and related to specific beliefs and ideas. The Word is thought to be the Scriptures, and the faith that is needed is purely about Jesus forgiving sins and taking us to heaven. In this scheme, it is important to impress on people that they are sinners and that Christ is the only way to salvation. However, any earthly salvation that might be needed is largely ignored. On the other hand, salvation is seen purely in terms of social justice, in terms of overthrowing unjust systems and creating a world of justice, peace and equity. In this scheme, any need for spiritual rescue, or for consideration of eternal realities are largely ignored. However, in our world, there is a need for both rescues, and for people who are both committed enough and humble enough to proclaim it in ways that are life-giving, welcoming and practical. There is a need to recognise that we are not capable of saving ourselves, and that we need God's Word in Christ to empower us, direct us and transform us. There is a need to recognise that God's reign challenges and confronts unjust human systems and to work for a change in how our world is structured. And, there is a need to recognise that all people are loved by God, are made in God's image, and are eternal creatures whom God longs to bring into loving, healing relationship with God's self. If we are to participate in God's saving work, then, it will mean that we need to be both people of faith and people of practical, liberating action. Both people of courageous proclamation, and people of gracious, loving welcome. And it will mean having the humility to realise that it is Christ – not Christians, or even the Church – that must ultimately be the Saviour, and that Christ can choose to do this work in any way Christ chooses – and through any means.

**LOCAL APPLICATION:** The reality of our world is that many people are tired of hearing the traditional evangelical presentation of the Gospel and resent the sense of judgement and exclusivity with which it is presented. It is tempting for us to see ourselves as obedient servants of Christ who do not reach people simply because they are resistant to God. However, we would do well to consider whether we may have missed what God is really calling us to do, and whether we have reduced God's message down to only a few parts of the whole. For some of us, the idea of offering God's salvation to others is the cause of much embarrassment and resistance because we don't want to be associated with certain groups, preachers or ways of evangelising. But, in every community, every neighbourhood and even every family, are those who would be grateful for us to serve them as Christ did, to work on their behalf to change unjust systems, and to help them find practical ways to address their struggles. In every community are those who want to see our message being lived out in practical ways. In every situation are those who wish that the message of God's grace and love was presented with the same grace and love it proclaims. As churches we cannot avoid the call to share the Gospel, but we can be more careful about how we respond to it. In Joseph's case there was no blame placed on Egypt for the famine. There was just grace, love and rescue. In Elijah's case, there was confrontation with corrupt leaders, but solidarity with the poor and oppressed, not judgement. In Paul's letter he instructs believers to avoid getting into judgements of who is going to heaven or to hell, and just to be the "beautiful feet" that bring Christ to those who need Christ. And in



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the case of Christ, Peter and the disciples are invited to trust Jesus more, and learn to trust his rescue which is always available for them, while learning to recognise who he really is – the only one who can offer them God's eternal life.

### SERMON OUTLINE

#### **Prop14A Matt Matthew 14:22-33 into the boat**

Following the feeding of the 5000, Jesus *dismissed the crowd* and sent *the disciples ahead of him* by boat on the Sea of Galilee...

- 1. Devotion 22-23:** *he went up the mountainside by himself to pray* – he recognised the need for privacy & prayer...
  - 2. Danger 24:** *by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from land, for the wind was against them* – a most frightening time - even with experienced seasoned fishermen in their midst!
  - 3. Dismay 25-27:** Jesus saw their predicament & came to their assistance - *walking towards the on the lake* - much to their dismay! *They were terrified (26) saying "It's a ghost". They cried out in fear* - but Jesus reassures them *"Take heart, it is I; (27) do not be afraid.* He is always there when he is needed!
  - 4. Decision 28-29:** Impetuous Peter *got out of the boat and started walking on the water & came to Jesus* in obedience *"Come"*. So must we make that decision & come to him!
  - 5. Doubt 30-32:** However *he noticed the strong wind* - took his eyes off Jesus - *became frightened & beginning to sink cried out "Lord, save me" (30).* Only Jesus could help! *reached out his hand & caught him, saying, "You of little faith, why did you doubt? Do we doubt or trust?*
- 1. Decision 33:** *As the wind ceased those in the boat worshipped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God"* - it had been a truly amazing experience for them all!... Such faith in Christ we too proclaim in humble adoration ..

*By Norman Porteous*

### ONLINE SERMON SOURCES

["Our faith inside the boat,"](http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/stw/2014/07/17/9-pentecost-proper-14-a-2014/) 9 Pentecost, the Rev. Amy E. Richter, *Sermons that Work*, Episcopal Digital Network  
<http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/stw/2014/07/17/9-pentecost-proper-14-a-2014/>

["Walking on Water,"](http://day1.org/5964-walking_on_water) the Rev. Canon Michael Rusk (TEC), *Day 1*  
[http://day1.org/5964-walking\\_on\\_water](http://day1.org/5964-walking_on_water)

**Day 1** - Encountering Christ - based on the Gospel reading. Sermon by Dr. Jan Love, dean and professor of Christianity and World Politics for the Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta, GA. She uses Peter's attempt to walk on water as an example of the call to encounter Christ in new and indeed shocking ways.



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“Have you felt the powerful presence of grace lately? Have you run into any miracles of love or wonderful abundance of mercy when you least expected it? Have you found reassurance in the midst of stormy experiences or calm and comfort when, like Peter, you fear that you're in over your head? If so, perhaps you've felt the miraculous company of Christ.”

She concludes by referring to her own experience of encountering inter-faith worship in a women's group. She writes, “Have you felt the powerful presence of Christ's love lately? Have you run into any miracles of mercy or a weighty, wonderful abundance of grace in the midst of life's raging storms? Have you found faith coming to the rescue when you're about to drown in those awful sinking feelings of despair and fear?

“If so, have you told anyone about it? Have you shared the experience of your faith journey, thus multiplying the possibility that others will come to know the life-transforming power of the one we call Christ?”

[http://day1.org/1107-encountering\\_christ](http://day1.org/1107-encountering_christ)

**America** - John R Donahue's tight written presentation on the Gospel. “Matthew he is a model for all of Christ's followers. He is called by Christ but suffers from uncertainty and doubt throughout his life, only to fail and deny Jesus during the Passion. Yet at each stage he is rescued or strengthened by Jesus and, in contrast to Mark, is one of the disciples to whom the risen Jesus appears. Far from being a symbol of certainty and unyielding fidelity, Peter in Matthew is a symbol for a pilgrim church that often misunderstands Jesus, struggles with doubt, often with “little faith,” and even abandons Jesus in time of trial.”

[http://www.americamagazine.org/content/article.cfm?article\\_id=2415](http://www.americamagazine.org/content/article.cfm?article_id=2415)

### CHILDREN

**Worshipping with children** - In the riches of this weekly blog, there is a story for children who are being constantly pushed by their parents...

<http://worshippingwithchildren.blogspot.com/2011/07/year-proper-14-19th-sunday-ordinary.html>

[Weekly Devotion Page](#), *Faith Formation Journeys*

<http://faithformationjourneys.org/?p=1636>

["Sermon of the Week,"](#) / ["Mensajes para ninos,"](#) Sermons 4 Kids, Charles Kirkpatrick, Object Lessons & Children's Sermons, Coloring Pages, Puzzles. Sermons4Kids.com.  
<https://www.sermons4kids.com/>

### HYMN SUGGESTIONS

[O God Our Help In Ages Past](#)

[O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee](#)

[A Charge To Keep I Have](#)

[O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing](#)

[We Shall Go Out In Hope Of Resurrection](#)

[You Are God](#)

[You Are](#)

[God Of Justice](#) (*Link to YouTube video*)

[How Lovely On The Mountains](#) (*Link to YouTube video*)

**1st Reading Genesis 37: 1–4, 12–28**

647\* Guide me, O thou great Jehovah

**Psalm 105: 1–6, 16–22, 45b**

353\* Give to our God immortal praise

361\* Now thank we all our God

708\* O praise ye the Lord! Praise him in the height

365\* Praise to the Lord, the almighty, the King of creation

**1st Reading 1 Kings 19: 9–18**

325\* Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here

549\* Dear Lord and Father of mankind

593\* O Jesus, I have promised

624 Speak, Lord, in the stillness

387\* Thanks to God, whose Word was spoken

**Psalm 85: 8–13 [Pr10B\*]**

695\* God of mercy, God of grace

539 Rejoice, O land, in God thy might

140 [The Lord will come and not be slow]

**2nd Reading Romans 10: 5–15**

501 Christ is the world's true light

478\* Go forth and tell! O Church of God, awake!

91\* He is Lord, he is Lord

129\* How lovely on the mountains are the feet of him

92\* How sweet the name of Jesus sounds

522\* In Christ there is no east or west

94\* In the name of Jesus

211\* Immortal love for ever full

335\* Jesus calls us here to meet him

96\* Jesus is Lord! Creation's voice proclaims it

425\* Jesus, thou joy of loving hearts

303\* Lord of the Church, we pray for our renewing

106 O Jesus, King most wonderful

306\* O Spirit of the living God

71 Saviour, again to thy dear name we raise

597\* Take my life and let it be

117\* To the name of our salvation

491\* We have a gospel to proclaim

**The Gospel Matthew 14: 22–33**

612\* Eternal Father, strong to save

648\* God be with you till we meet again

28\* I sing the almighty power of God

553\* Jesu, lover of my soul

584\* Jesus calls us! O'er the tumult

587\* Just as I am, without one plea

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652\* Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us  
588\* Light of the minds that know him  
18 Lord, I come before your throne of grace  
593\* O Jesus, I have promised  
34\* O worship the King all-glorious above  
366\* Praise, my soul, the King of heaven  
365\* Praise to the Lord, the almighty, the King of creation  
527\* Son of God, eternal Saviour  
110 Tell me the stories of Jesus  
47\* [We plough the fields and scatter]  
680\* Will your anchor hold in the storms of life  
22 You shall cross the barren desert

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