

Weekly Readings for Proper 19 Year A, September 13, 2026

Collect of the Day

O God, because in our ignorance and selfishness we so often fail to care rightly for your Creation, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may soften and unite our hearts with all living beings who suffer; through Jesus Christ the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Reading— Exodus 14: 19-31

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's creation.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 114 (*read responsively by whole verse*)

1 Hallelujah! When Israel came out of Egypt, *
the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,

**2 Judah became God's sanctuary *
and Israel his dominion.**

3 The sea beheld it and fled; *
Jordan turned and went back.

**4 The mountains skipped like rams, *
and the little hills like young sheep.**

5 What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? *
O Jordan, that you turned back?

**6 You mountains, that you skipped like rams? *
you little hills like young sheep?**

7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, *
at the presence of the God of Jacob,

**8 Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water *
and flint-stone into a flowing spring.**

Second Reading— Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's creation.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading—Matthew 18:21-35

Officiant: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: **Glory to you Lord Christ.**

Peter came and said to Jesus, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

Officiant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Announcements *(if you have an announcement to share, please contact Rev. Sarah by Wednesday.)*

- **Upcoming Important Dates:**
 - Sept. thru Oct.- Season of Creation
 - Sept. 20- Story Sharing Sunday
 - Oct. 4- Blessing of the Animals
- **Story Sharing Sunday-** What brought you to Trinity? What keeps you here at Trinity? Join us as we gather together on Sept. 20th, both during the shortened service, and following the service over lunch, as we share answers to these questions together and learn more from one another about how God is calling Trinity. If you can't be with us in person, please connect with Rev. Sarah about how we can still hold your story as a part of this season of discernment.
- **Discretionary Sunday-** Today is the second Sunday of the month, where anything in the collection plate not labeled or designated for a particular fund or pledge will go to the Priest's discretionary account, that is meant to support the direct needs of our community.
- **Fall Book and Dinner Group details-** This fall, we will read *The Serviceberry: An Economy of Gifts and Abundance*, by Robin Wall Kimmerer. We will meet three times over the fall and winter to discuss the book and share a meal, inspired by the Decolonized Diet Project cookbook together. DDP offers meals made from food native to the Great Lakes area, and will align with some of the stories and themes of our book. Dates we will gather are 10/13, 11/8, 12/10. Stay tuned for more details, and reach out to Rev. Sarah if you are interested in joining! All are welcome!

Service Leaders for 9/13/26

Reader- Evan Erspamer
Prayers of the People- Cheri Poynter
Usher- Pat Joyce
Coffee Hour- Val Peyser

Service Leaders for 9/20/26

Reader- James Bittner
Prayers of the People- Toni Erickson
Usher- Chris Peyser
Coffee Hour- Story Share lunch

Service Leaders for 9/27/26

Reader- Nick Bradley
Prayers of the People- Deb Francis
Usher- Dave Courey
Coffee Hour- Gordy Hoyem

The flowers on the altar today are given for the grace and glory of God, for the connections we create within our small, beautiful community, and in loving memory of Hugo Gordillo.

Rev. Sarah's time: Please reach out for pastoral needs or time with me by email at sarahdienschlitt@gmail.com. Open office hours: 10-4 Tuesdays-Thursdays. I observe sabbath on Mondays, and don't typically answer emails on Saturdays and Mondays. If the situation is an emergency, please call or text at 218-341-0900.