

## **Ninth Sunday after Trinity**

Prayers, Readings, Reflection and Song.

“Welcome to another short act of worship for the Parish Church of St Martin. For those who are able to follow it as written, I hope it offers some comfort, encouragement and a sense of being together despite the distance between us.”

Rev Jonny



*Be still, and draw yourself closer to the God who rests beside you,  
before you and within you.*

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

*All* **Amen.**

The Lord be with you

*All* **And also with you**

My brothers and sisters,  
as we prepare to celebrate the presence of Christ  
in word and sacrament,  
let us call to mind and confess our sins.

Remember, Lord, your compassion and love,  
for they are everlasting.

Lord, have mercy.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions,  
but think on me in your goodness, O Lord,  
according to your steadfast love.

Christ, have mercy.

*All* **Christ, have mercy.**

O keep my soul and deliver me;  
let me not be put to shame, for I have put my trust in you.

Lord, have mercy.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God,  
who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy upon *you*,  
pardon and deliver *you* from all *your* sins,  
confirm and strengthen *you* in all goodness,  
and keep *you* in life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

*The Collect for the day*

Almighty God,  
who sent your Holy Spirit  
to be the life and light of your Church:  
open our hearts to the riches of your grace,  
that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit  
in love and joy and peace;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
**All Amen.**

### **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

*Gospel Reading, from Matthew 14: 22-33*

Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into

the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**All Praise to you, O Christ**

### *Reflection*

*(By Rachel Held Evans, Spiritual Writer, August 2014)*

*In the beginning, the Spirit of God hovered over the primordial waters. The water was dark and deep and everywhere, the ancients say, an endless and chaotic sea. Then God separated the water, pushing some of it below to make oceans, rivers, and seas, and vaulting the rest of the torrents above to be locked behind a glassy firmament. In Ancient Near Eastern cosmology, all of life hung suspended between these waters, vulnerable as a foetus in the womb.*

*For the disciples of Jesus, the volatility and mystery of the sea was associated with the chaotic, the demonic, the unknown. A powerful storm conjured memories of the story of Noah’s flood when “the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened.” Water was, and is, a powerful force that can in a moment give life and in another take it away.*

*I know this fear—the fear of chaos, of evil, of death. It arrives unexpectedly and unwelcome, often just after I’ve made some great declaration of faith and convinced myself I’m in control. I’ve climbed out of the boat, put one foot in front of the other, and then suddenly realized the foolishness of the whole enterprise, the forces we’re all up against in this scary world. They’re dropping bombs in Iraq now, and I know I’m supposed to be against that, but the alternative seems just as dangerous, just as awful. The cycle of violence, fear, and hate continues, on and on—only the word cycle doesn’t quite seem to fit, does*

*it? It's too neat, too orderly, too predictable. It seems more like chaos, like an unleashed sea.*

*No rhyme. No reason. No guiding Hand.*

*Notice that Jesus doesn't tell his disciples to stop asking questions. He doesn't tell them to abandon inquiry, lament, or struggle. He doesn't chastise Peter for taking the risk and climbing out of the boat and into the thick of it. He simply reminds him, "I am here. Do not be afraid." He is present—even in the chaos, even in the storm. We have to be present in the chaos too, to see Him and to trust Him again, to walk on water.*

*I am a person of little faith. I startle at every crack of thunder. I worry about the wind and the waves. I am not convinced that God is present in the chaos, much less able to save us from it. I am standing in the thick of it. And yet Jesus said that even a little faith is enough to uproot a mountain and send it into the wild sea. Even a little faith is enough.*

### *Prayers of Intercession*

*Pray for one another – those in our church community*

*Pray for the Parish, the Island and the World*

*Pray for the sick, the isolated, the anxious and depressed*

*Pray for the dying, and those who mourn*

*Pray for yourselves, and for your own needs*

Lord in your mercy

**All Hear our prayer**

*The Intercessions may end as follows*

Merciful Father

**All Accept these prayers**

**for the sake of your son,**

**our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen**

*The Peace*

Peace to you from God our heavenly Father.  
Peace from his Son Jesus Christ who is our peace.  
Peace from the Holy Spirit, the life-giver.  
The peace of the triune God be always with you

*All* **and also with you.**

Let us pray with confidence, as our Saviour taught us

*All* **Our Father**  
**who art in heaven,**  
**hallowed be thy name,**  
**thy kingdom come,**  
**thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**  
**Give us this day our daily bread;**  
**and forgive us our trespasses**  
**as we forgive those who trespass against us.**  
**And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from**  
**evil.**  
**For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory**  
**For ever and ever. Amen.**

*The Blessing.*

God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love,  
defend you on every side,  
and guide you in truth and peace;  
and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and  
the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always.

*All* **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*All* **In the name of Christ. Amen.**