

Sunday, September 13th, 2026
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Green)
Season of Creation

First Reading

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF 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.

The Song of Moses (Exodus 15.1–3, 6, 11, 13, 17–18)

I will sing to the Lord for his glorious triumph;
the horse and the rider he has hurled into the sea.
The Lord has become my strength and refuge;
the Lord himself has become my saviour.
He is my God and I will praise him;
my father's God and I will exalt him.
The Lord himself is a mighty warrior;
the Lord, the Lord is his name.
Your right hand, O Lord, is majestic in power;

your right hand, O Lord, shatters the enemy.
Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods,
holy, awesome, worker of wonders?
In steadfast love you led your people,
you guided your redeemed with your great strength.
You brought them in safety to your holy place,
and planted them firm on your own mountain.
You brought them into your own house.
The Lord shall reign for ever and ever.

Second Reading

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE ROMANS (14:1-12)

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling 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 judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgement 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 honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour 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 judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement 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.

Gospel

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MATTHEW (18:21-22)

Then 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.

HYMNS

Open: CP 59 Jesus Calls Us Here to Meet Him

Tune: Trad. Gaelic Text: J.Bell, G.Maule © 1998, 2005, WGRG / Iona Community, GIA Publications
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Jesus calls us here to meet him
as through word and song and prayer,
we affirm God's promised presence
where his people live and care.
Praise the God who keeps his promise,
praise the Son who calls us friends,
praise the Spirit who, among us,
to our hopes and fears attends.

Jesus calls us to confess him
Word of life and Lord of all,
sharer of our flesh and frailness,
saving all who fail or fall.
Tell his holy, human story;
tell his tales that all may hear;
tell the world that Christ in glory
came to earth to meet us here.

Jesus calls us to each other;
found in him are no divides.
race and class and sex and language -
such are barriers he derides.
Join the hand of friend and stranger,
join the hands of age and youth,
join the faithful and the doubter
in their common search for truth.

Jesus calls us to his table
rooted firm in time and space,
where the Church in earth and heaven
finds a common meeting place.
Share the bread and wine, his body;
share the love of which we sing;
share the feast for saints and sinners
hosted by our Lord and King.

Gradual : CP 42 Crashing Waters at Creation

Tune: Stuttgart Text: S. Dunstan (c) 1991 GIA Publications Inc.

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Crashing waters at creation,
Ordered by the Spirit's breath,
First to witness day's beginning
From the brightness of night's death.

Parting water stood and trembled
as the captives passed on through,
washing off the chains of bondage -
channel to a life made new.

----gospel -----

Living water, never ending,
Quench the thirst and flood the soul.
Well-spring, source of life eternal,
Drench our dryness, make us whole.

Offertory: SANC 133 When Hands Reach Out

Tune: Salem (Southern Harmony) Text: K. Wehlander (c) 2005

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When hands reach out beyond divides
and hope is truly found,
Each chain of hate will fall away
and bells of peace shall sound,
and bells of peace ,of peace shall sound,
and bells of peace shall sound,
Each chain of hate will fall away
and bells of peace shall sound.

When fear no longer guides our steps
and days of war are done,
God's dream for all shall live anew;
our hearts will heal as one,
our hearts will heal, will heal as one,
our hearts will heal as one.
God's dream for all shall live anew;
our hearts will heal as one.

When race and creed blind us no more,
a neighbour's face we'll see,
And we shall dance the whole world round,
for love will set us free,

for love, yes love will set us free.
And we shall dance the whole world round,
for love will set us free.

Close: I Then Shall Live

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I then shall live as one who's been forgiven
I'll walk with joy to know my debts are paid
I know my name is clear before my Father
I am His child and I am not afraid
So greatly pardoned, I'll forgive my brother
The law of love I gladly will obey

I then shall live as one who's learned compassion
I've been so loved that I'll risk loving too
I'll know how fear builds walls instead of bridges
I'll dare to see another's point of view
And when relationships demand commitment
Then I'll be there to care and follow through

Your Kingdom come around and through and in me
Your pow'r and glory let them shine through me
Your hallowed name oh may I bear with honor
And may Your living Kingdom come in me
The Bread of Life oh may I share with honor
And may You feed a hungry world through me
And may You feed a hungry world through me