

# Season after Pentecost, Proper 9A

(Sunday between July 3 and July 9 inclusive)

**Color:** Green

**Scriptures:** [Scripture linked to NRSV at Oremus Bible Browser]

[Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67](#) (*The marriage of Isaac and Rebekah*)

[Psalm 45:11-18](#) (*A royal wedding: God has anointed you with the oil of gladness*)

[Romans 7:15-25a](#) (*Paul wrestles with sin; God offers salvation through Jesus*)

[Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30](#) (*Jesus bids all to come and find his yoke is easy, his burden is light*)

Alternate First Reading and Psalm

[Zechariah 9:9-12](#) (*Rejoice! The humble king comes to bring peace*)

[Psalm 145:8-14](#) (*The Lord is good, and has compassion for all*)

**Themes:** Covenant, Family, God's Blessing, Forgiveness, Humility, Compassion

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## HYMN SUGGESTIONS

*Hymn Suggestions link to [Hymnary.org](http://Hymnary.org), a searchable resource with a wealth of information. The tunes listed here are the ones most commonly associated with the texts, and the biblical/thematic references suggest the hymn's association with the morning's scriptures or themes.*

<a href="#">Alleluia, Sing to Jesus</a> ( <i>HYFRYDOL</i> ) .....	Matthew
<a href="#">Blest Be the God of Israel</a> ( <i>MERLE'S TUNE</i> ) .....	Zechariah
<a href="#">Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing</a> ( <i>NETTLETON</i> ) .....	Romans, Matthew
<a href="#">How Firm a Foundation</a> ( <i>FOUNDATION</i> ) .....	Romans, Matthew
<a href="#">I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say</a> ( <i>KINGSFOLD</i> ) .....	Matthew
<a href="#">Jesus, Lover of My Soul</a> ( <i>ABERYSTWYTH</i> ) .....	Romans
<a href="#">Jesus Loves Me</a> ( <i>CHINA</i> ) .....	Matthew
<a href="#">Jesus, What a Friend For Sinners</a> ( <i>HYFRYDOL</i> ) .....	Romans, Matthew
<a href="#">Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee</a> ( <i>HYMN TO JOY</i> ) .....	Psalms
<a href="#">Just a Closer Walk With Thee</a> ( <i>CLOSER WALK</i> ) .....	Romans, Matthew
<a href="#">Love Divine, All Loves Excelling</a> ( <i>HYFRYDOL; BEECHER</i> ) .....	Romans
<a href="#">Softly and Tenderly, Jesus Is Calling</a> ( <i>THOMPSON</i> ) .....	Matthew
<a href="#">To God Be the Glory</a> ( <i>TO GOD BE THE GLORY</i> ) .....	Romans
<a href="#">What a Friend We Have In Jesus</a> ( <i>CONVERSE</i> ) .....	Matthew

## ANTHEMS

*E = Easy, M = Moderate, MD = Moderately Difficult*

*The choral music suggestions during summer months are all relatively easy and accessible, reflecting a season when most church choirs take weeks off or change their rehearsal schedule. Several of these anthems are adaptable to fit small choirs or ensembles and can be prepared in one rehearsal.*

**All Day Hymn (Lord of All Hopefulness)** - E . Matthew  
SLANE/John Helgen, arr.  
© 1996, Kjos Music, 8822  
SATB, Keyboard, Flute

**Come Unto Me** - M..... Matthew  
Mark Blankenship  
© 1975, Broadman Press, BG 2632  
SATB, a cappella

**God's Peace (Come Away From Rush and Hurry)** - E  
BEACH SPRING/C. J. Adams, arr..... Matthew  
© 2015, Hope Publishing, C 5987  
SAB, Piano

**I Will Arise** - M..... Romans, Matthew  
RESTORATION/Alice Parker, Robert Shaw, arr.  
© 1960, Lawson-Gould, LG00905  
SATB, a cappella

**Love Divine, All Loves Excelling** - E ..... Romans  
Sid Davis  
© 1993, MorningStar Music, 50-9408  
SA, Piano

**O Jesus, I Have Promised** - E ..... Romans  
John Carter  
© 1981, Hinshaw Music, HMC-510  
SATB, Keyboard

**We Will Lay Our Burden Down** - E ..... Matthew  
John L. Bell/John Ferguson, arr.  
© 1995, GIA Publications, G-4221  
SATB, Solo (or Congregation), Flute

**Peace (from Shaker Songs)** - E ..... Zechariah  
Shaker song/Kevin Siegfried, arr.  
© 1999, earthsongs, S-102  
SATB, a cappella

### Smaller Choirs and Intergenerational

**I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say** - E ..... Matthew  
KINGSFOLD/Chaz Bowers, arr.  
© 2019, Augsburg Fortress, 978-1-5064-6259-9  
2-Part Mixed, Piano

**Lord of the Dance** - E ..... Matthew  
SIMPLE GIFTS/Allen Pote, arr.  
© 1997, Hope Publishing, A 712  
2-Part Mixed, Piano

**Love Beyond All Telling** - E ..... Matthew  
Marty Haugen  
© 1999, GIA Publications, G-5097  
Unison (opt. SAB, Congregation), Piano, Cello

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## ADDITIONAL MATERIAL (Prayers, Poems, Quotes & Liturgies)

### THE RHYTHM OF REST

*God of Perfect Peace:*

*Give me the patience to wait for your best gifts in a world moving fast.*

*Draw me into the rhythm of rest that my body needs and the goodness  
of relationships that my heart craves.*

*While the world is unpredictable, reveal your life-giving presence  
permanently available in the silence. Amen.*

– PETER TRABEN HAAS, *Centering Prayers*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

(Inspired by Matthew 11:28-30)

We gather near and far with hearts open for worship.

**We pause to breathe in the breath of God and breathe out the love of God.**

(Hold silence)

Jesus calls, come to me and I will give you rest.

**We follow in need of rest and renewal, company and community,  
faith and forgiveness.**

Together we step out and speak up in faith.

**Together we heed the call to practice living as Jesus taught - - loving our  
neighbors as ourselves and journeying with just mercy.**

— GINGER BRASHER-CUNNINGHAM\*

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*Thou madest me for Thyself  
and my heart is restless  
until it repose in Thee. Amen.*

— AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO (354–430)

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## GATHERING PRAYER

We praise you, Loving God, for the truth of your word which is love, welcome and embrace.  
We thank you, that though hidden from the wise and intelligent, your truth in Christ Jesus is  
revealed plainly to infants, coming to you with open hearts, and as such, we pray. Amen.

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*I ask for a moment's indulgence to sit by Your side. The works that I have in  
hand I will finish afterward.*

*Away from the sight of Your face, my heart knows no rest or respite, and my  
work becomes an endless toil in a shoreless sea of toil.*

*Today the summer has come at my window with its sighs and murmurs; and the  
bees are plying their minstrelsy at the court of the flowering grove.*

*Now it is time to sit quietly, face to face with You, and to sing dedication of life  
in this silent and overflowing leisure.*

— RABINDRANATH TAGORE (1861–1941)

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION WITH WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*(Inspired by Matthew 11:16-19)*

Gracious God, we stand, sit, and stagger in need of your grace. Forgive us, Loving One, for we have not listened. At times, maybe many times, we have allowed our personal demons of self-gratification and homogeneous isolation to fuel our inability to stand up as allies for others or walk gently on the earth. Our footprints on both people who live on the margins of society and on the natural resources of our planet are that of giants. Empower us to remove the walls of our hearts and walls of our lands to be the people of faith you call us to be.

In Christ we pray, Amen.

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Gratefully, the Eternal One who loves us beyond our wildest imagination is always there to empower our faith-filled acts. Go be whole and live in the abundance of God's grace.

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## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Divine one, as we make our offerings this day – we share who we are and what we have. Teach us the spirit of generosity - - to give freely of our resources – even when our culture tells us to hold tight to our time, talent, and treasure. Remind us that there is enough if we just share one with another. May the gifts we entrust to your work and ministry bring love into the world. In thanksgiving we pray, Amen.

## CHARGE AND BLESSING

As we depart, go into the world changed by what we have learned. Be willing to do life differently. Live with intention, slow down, care for self, engage family, serve community, and protect the land beneath our feet and skies above our heads. Allow hope to quench our thirst and love to feed our souls. Go out grounded in the one who loves us beyond our comprehension. Be ready to speak up and speak out for our siblings next door and around the world! Amen.

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\* Thanks to Ginger Brasher-Cunningham for contributing this week's liturgy and prayers.

Warren Howell, editor