

The Readings on This Day

****Click on the links for the Bible Verse(s)*

Sunday, August 7–13

Lectionary 19

Matthew's narrative describes Jesus as embodying the power of the God of the Hebrew tradition. The church receives words about Jesus as being the very word of God. On Sunday, these words are heard in the readings, meditated upon in the sermon, and consumed in holy communion.

[1 Kings 19:9-18](#)

The narrative of Elijah encountering only sheer silence is an ironic tale in the genre of theophanies that show divine power through the forces of nature. Matthew's story of the stilling of the tempest fits more traditionally into a religious expectation that God has power over nature. The lectionary appoints both.

[The Psalm for the Day](#)

To respond to the story of Elijah being met with the sound of sheer silence, we sing [Psalm 85:8-13](#). In this prayer for help, we, like Elijah, are waiting to hear the voice of God, and we pray that righteousness and peace will come forth. The contrast with Elijah is clear: he heard comfort, yet also more challenge for his difficult prophetic preaching.

[Romans 10:5-15](#)

We assemble on Sunday to hear the very word of which Paul speaks. Today our faith in Christ saves us; now we hear God's sheer silence; now the storm is stilled.

[Matthew 14:22-33](#)

Jesus' power over nature, his claim "I am," and his rescue of Peter proclaim that Jesus is divine. The sea is our chaos, Peter's doubt our own. With Peter we ask Jesus



to save us, and with the disciples we acclaim him the Son of God. “Do not be afraid,” Jesus says both to the disciples in the boat and to the women at the empty tomb.