

GOSPEL

Mt 14:22-33

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

R. Glory to you, O Lord.*Command me to come to you over the water.*

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord', he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**HOMILY****PROFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES' CREED***Or the Nicene Creed may be said.*

I believe in God, / the Father almighty, / Creator of heaven and earth, / and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, / who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, / born of the Virgin Mary, / suffered under Pontius Pilate, / was crucified, died and was buried; / he descended into hell; / on the third day he rose again from the dead; / he ascended into heaven, / and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; / from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. / I believe in the Holy Spirit, / the holy catholic Church, / the communion of saints, / the forgiveness of sins, / the resurrection of the body, / and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST***After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:***R. Blessed be God for ever.**

P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

P. Be pleased, O Lord, to accept the offerings of your Church, for in your mercy you have given them to be offered and by your power you transform them into the mystery of our salvation. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.**THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Lift up your hearts.

R. We lift them up to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R. It is right and just.**PREFACE I-VIII OF THE SUNDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME***After the Preface, we sing or say:*

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The mystery of faith.

All: Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.**COMMUNION RITE**

P. At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven ...

P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray...

All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.

P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said...

R. Amen.

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

*All exchange a sign of peace***LAMB OF GOD****All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.****Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.****Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.****INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**COMMUNION ANTIPHON Ps 147:12, 14****O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord, who gives you your fill of finest wheat.****PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P. May the communion in your Sacrament that we have consumed, save us, O Lord, and confirm us in the light of your truth. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.**THE CONCLUDING RITES**

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. Go forth, the Mass is ended.

R. Thanks be to God.**REFLECTIONS ON THE GOSPEL****WALKING ON THE SEA WITH JESUS**

Jesus sends his disciples off to cross the lake by boat, while he disperses the crowd. When eventually he rejoins the disciples, now battling with a headwind and heavy seas, he does so by walking on the sea.

In biblical imagery to tread down raging water is something only God can do (Psalm 77:19; Job 9:8; Isaiah 43:16). Jesus' reassurance to the terrified disciples, 'It is I; fear not', echoes the revelation of God to Moses at the Burning Bush (Exodus 3:14).

What prompts Peter's desire to come to Jesus across the sea? Love or bravado? Perhaps a mixture of both—but also, surely, faith. Faith enables him to trample for a time the forces of destruction. But when he looks away from his Lord, to focus instead upon the wind and sea, doubt creeps in, and with doubt the gravest danger.

Peter 'models' the mixture of faith and doubt to which all believers are prone. Jesus' gentle rebuke, 'O you of little faith, why did you doubt?', applies to us all. Sometimes the Lord calls us to leave the security of the boat and come to him across the waves. We begin to falter when we take our eyes off Jesus and focus only on the difficulties that come our way.

Then we can make our own Peter's cry for rescue and feel, as he felt, the Lord's strong hand reaching out to raise us up. The Lord is not absent: he is 'with us' ('Emmanuel': Matthew 1:17; 28:19) to the end of time.

Brendan Byrne, SJ

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OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

09 AUGUST 2020

JESUS WENT UP INTO THE HILLS TO PRAY. The prophet Elijah and Jesus both went up a mountain to pray. Many people have experienced the presence of God in the wonder and solitude of a mountain top. But God is also to be found at sea level, in the ups and downs of our daily lives. When we are swamped by troubles and cry out, 'Lord, save me,' we allow God to reach out and hold us.

INTRODUCTORY RITES**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** cf. Ps 73:20, 19, 22, 23

Look to your covenant, O Lord, and forget not the life of your poor ones for ever.

Arise, O God, and defend your cause, and forget not the cries of those who seek you.

GREETING

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

R. Amen.

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

R. And with your spirit.**PENITENTIAL ACT**

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

All: I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, (striking the breast) through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

R. Amen.

V. Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

V. Christ, have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

V. Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.**GLORIA**

Glory to God in the highest, / and on earth peace to people of good will. / We praise you, / we bless you, / we adore you, / we glorify you, / we give you thanks for your great glory, / Lord God, heavenly King, / O God, almighty Father. / Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, / Lord God, Lamb of God,

Son of the Father, / you take away the sins of the world, / have mercy on us; / you take away the sins of the world, / receive our prayer; / you are seated at the right hand of the Father, / have mercy on us. / For you alone are the Holy One, / you alone are the Lord, / you alone are the Most High, / Jesus Christ, / with the Holy Spirit, / in the glory of God the Father. / Amen.

COLLECT

P. Almighty ever-living God, whom, taught by the Holy Spirit, we dare to call our Father, bring, we pray, to perfection in our hearts the spirit of adoption as your sons and daughters, that we may merit to enter into the inheritance which you have promised. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.**LITURGY OF THE WORD****FIRST READING**

1 Kings 19:9, 11-13

A reading from the first book of the Kings
Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord God.

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.' Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.**RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 84:9-14. R. v. 8**

R. Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say, / a voice that speaks of peace. / His help is near for those who fear him / and his glory will dwell in our land. **R.**



2. Mercy and faithfulness have met; / justice and peace have embraced. / Faithfulness shall spring from the earth / and justice look down from heaven. **R.**

3. The Lord will make us prosper / and our earth shall yield its fruit. / Justice shall march before him / and peace shall follow his steps. **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 9:1-5

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

I would willingly be condemned if it could help my people.

What I want to say is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ – it is the truth – my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Ps 129:5

Alleluia, alleluia! / I hope in the Lord, / I trust in his word. / Alleluia!