

Living FAITH

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A Primary

“JESUS WALKS ON WATER”

WE GATHER

God of Great Courage,
As we live Your Word,
help us to be courageous people of faith,
walking to You without fear
and living every day in hope and love.
We make this prayer in Jesus’ name.

Amen.

WE LISTEN

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew (14:22-23)

Jesus Walks on the Water

Right away, Jesus made his disciples get into a boat and start back across the lake. But he stayed until he had sent the crowds away. Then he went up on a mountain where he could be alone and pray. Later that evening, he was still there.

By this time the boat was a long way from the shore. It was going against the wind and was being tossed around by the waves. A little while before morning, Jesus came walking on the water toward his disciples. When they saw him, they thought he was a ghost. They were terrified and started screaming.

At once, Jesus said to them, “Don’t worry! I am Jesus. Don’t be afraid.” Peter replied, “Lord, if it is really you, tell me to come to you on the water.”

“Come on!” Jesus said. Peter then got out of the boat and started walking on the water toward him. But when Peter saw how strong the wind was, he was afraid and started sinking. “Save me, Lord!” he shouted.

Right away, Jesus reached out his hand. He helped Peter up and said, “You surely don’t have much faith. Why do you doubt?”

When Jesus and Peter got into the boat, the wind died down. The men in the boat worshiped Jesus and said, “You really are the Son of God!”

For courage,
to follow in Jesus’ footsteps.
Lord, hear us.

For faith,
to know that God is always
walking beside us.
Lord, hear us.

For hope,
to embrace challenges with positivity
and resilience.
Lord, hear us.

For our own needs...
Lord, hear us.

Living FAITH

WE REFLECT

Learning a new skill can be exciting but also a little scary. Whether you are learning to “drop” into a quarter pipe at the skate park, how to “tumble” on the mats in gymnastics or even something seemingly small like speaking in public, learning a new skill requires a whole lot of trust, courage, determination and even hope. Above all, letting go of your fear, taking a deep breath and stepping into the unknown takes a great deal of faith. Faith that your friends and the adults around you will keep you safe and will encourage you and support you if at first you don’t succeed. Faith in yourself too, faith that you **can** do it, and if things don’t quite go to plan, faith that you will pick yourself back up again and have another go.

Today’s Gospel reminds us to not only put our faith in others around us and in ourselves, but most importantly we need to be putting our faith in God. For when we take a leap of faith and follow God into the unknown, we can achieve far more than we ever thought possible. God knows us far better than we know ourselves and knows just how much we are capable of. In saying “yes” to God we are saying “yes” to all the wonderful, exciting, awe-inspiring, challenging yet rewarding experiences and adventures God has planned for us.

Sure, God may not be encouraging you to walk on water today, but you can be certain that God’s hand is outstretched and waiting for you to grab hold of it, to be like Elsa from Frozen, and step out into the unknown. Ok, maybe not like Elsa, but definitely like the trusting, determined, courageous, hopeful, fearless, faith-filled child of God that you are.

You could always be like the other disciples and choose to stay in the boat and miss out on all the action, but what if you didn’t? What if you really did put your faith in God and just said “yes”? Why not give it a try right now, from this very moment, today? Put your faith in God and just say “yes”.

WE ARE SENT FORTH

God of Hope in the Unknown,
We give thanks for the many things we have been blessed with.
Help us to know Your voice
as we listen to the Good News and proclaim it for others.
We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, the Living Word.
Amen.

***In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.***

***"If you are what you should be, you will set the
whole world ablaze!"***

- *St. Catherine of Sienna*

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Scripture quotations taken from the Contemporary English Version

