

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 Secondary

“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

When reflecting on this Gospel we often focus on Jesus and Peter. Jesus reaching out an encouraging hand, challenging Peter to step out into the unknown. Peter, taking a deep breath, stepping out onto the water in a daring leap of faith, then second guessing himself and sinking from his own fear and loss of hope. But what about the other disciples? What is it that we can learn from the ones who simply watched on from the safety of the boat? The ones who chose to believe in Jesus because they saw him perform a miracle with someone right before their eyes? In fact, the disciples more often than not, were witnesses to Jesus' miracles not recipients of them. They were able to watch on in the safety of the sidelines finding themselves being filled with faith by what they saw Jesus do in the lives of others, not necessarily heeding the call to step out onto the water themselves.

That was what was different about Peter, extraordinary even. He wasn't content with simply being a witness to the works of Jesus, he wanted the full experience. He wanted to follow Jesus wherever he led even if that meant stepping off a boat into stormy waters. Yes, he did it scared, yes his faith wavered and yes he messed up a bunch of times over the years, but every time he seemingly failed, he gathered himself up, dusted himself off, trusted in and loved Jesus that little bit more.

So really, this Gospel isn't just about whether you have faith or not, it's about where your faith comes from. Do you have faith because you have seen Jesus transform the lives of those around you, or because you have allowed Jesus to work miracles in your own life? It's understandable to want to remain in the safety of the boat, to be content with being a witness, trusting and believing in Jesus because of what you see. But what if your faith stemmed not from what you saw but what you felt? Not from what you can imagine but what you have lived? What if your faith deepened every day because you happily took Jesus' outstretched hand, knowing that sometimes you might be scared to take it, but did it anyway? Why not give it a try? Why not take a leap of faith, step out of the boat and become a witness to Jesus' amazing works in your own life.

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*

Out To Sea photo by Matt Hardy
Licensed under Creative Commons Zero (CC0) via Unsplash.com <https://unsplash.com/photos/W3EM4m2HsLY>
Scripture quotations taken from the Contemporary English Version

