

The Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 13, 2017

First Reading - 1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a

At the mountain of God, Horeb,
Elijah came to a cave where he took shelter.
Then the LORD said to him,
"Go outside and stand on the mountain
before the LORD;
the LORD will be passing by."
A strong and heavy wind was rending the mountains
and crushing rocks before the LORD—
but the LORD was not in the wind.
After the wind there was an earthquake—
but the LORD was not in the earthquake.
After the earthquake there was fire—
but the LORD was not in the fire.
After the fire there was a tiny whispering sound.
When he heard this,
Elijah hid his face in his cloak
and went and stood at the entrance of the cave.

Second Reading - Romans 9:1-5

Brothers and sisters:
I speak the truth in Christ, I do not lie;
my conscience joins with the Holy Spirit
in bearing me witness
that I have great sorrow
and constant anguish in my heart.
For I could wish that I myself
were accursed and cut off from Christ
for the sake of my own people,
my kindred according to the flesh.
They are Israelites;
theirs the adoption, the glory, the covenants,
the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises;
theirs the patriarchs, and from them,
according to the flesh, is the Christ,
who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

Words from our Holy Father

[Here] is an effective image of the Church: a boat
which must brave the storms and sometimes seems on
the point of capsizing. What saves her is not the skill
and courage of her crew members, but faith which al-
lows her to walk, even in the dark, amid hardships.
Faith gives us the certainty of Jesus' presence always
beside us, of his hand which grasps us to pull us back
from danger. We are all on this boat, and we feel se-
cure here despite our limitations and our weaknesses.

-Pope Francis preaching the Angelus, Sunday, August 10, 2014

Gospel - Matthew 17:22-33

After he had fed the people,
Jesus made the disciples get into a boat
and precede him to the other side,
while he dismissed the crowds.
After doing so,
he went up on the mountain by himself to pray.
When it was evening he was there alone.
Meanwhile the boat, already a few miles offshore,
was being tossed about by the waves,
for the wind was against it.
During the fourth watch of the night,
he came toward them walking on the sea.
When the disciples saw him walking on the sea
they were terrified.
"It is a ghost," they said, and they cried out in fear.
At once Jesus spoke to them,
"Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid."
Peter said to him in reply,
"Lord, if it is you,
command me to come to you on the water."
He said, "Come."
Peter got out of the boat
and began to walk on the water toward Jesus.
But when he saw how strong the wind was
he became frightened;
and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"
Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand
and caught Peter,
and said to him,
"O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"
After they got into the boat, the wind died down.
Those who were in the boat did him homage, saying,
"Truly, you are the Son of God."



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Psalm 85

*Lord, let us see your kindness,
and grant us your salvation.*

I will hear what God proclaims;
the LORD — for he proclaims peace.
Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him,
glory dwelling in our land.

Kindness and truth shall meet;
justice and peace shall kiss.
Truth shall spring out of the earth,
and justice shall look down from heaven.

The LORD himself will give his benefits;
our land shall yield its increase.
Justice shall walk before him,
and prepare the way of his steps.

Your Grace Is Enough

Great is your faithfulness, O God of Jacob
you wrestle with the sinner’s restless heart
You lead me by still waters into mercy
where nothing can keep us apart

*So remember your people, remember your children
remember your promise O God*

**For your grace is enough, yeah, your grace is enough
yeah, your grace is enough
yeah, your grace is enough for me**

Great is your love and justice, God of Jacob
you use the weak to lead the strong
You lead us in the song of heaven’s vict’ry
and all your people sing along

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“Ground Rules” for Small Group Faith Sharing

Maintain confidentiality – “Whatever happens in small group stays in small group.”

Judgment-free zone – You don’t have to agree with everyone, but you have to have respect for everyone.

No “shut downs” or “put downs” – See Christ in one another, BE Christ to one another.

Don’t be a “discussion hog” – Be sure that everyone that wants to gets a chance to share.

Leave room for the Spirit – Silence is OK! Not everyone has to share.

Practice active listening – Avoid interrupting, fidgeting, criticizing, lecturing, or thinking of what you’re going to say while another person is speaking.

Questions are a guide - You do not have to answer all of them or go in order.

Be open – God is doing amazing things!

Questions for Reflection on the Gospel

1. What word, image, or phrase stands out to you from the Gospel?

2. If you were Peter on a boat in the middle of a storm, would you climb out of the boat if Jesus called? Where in your life is Jesus calling you to trust him?

3. Peter was walking toward Jesus and doing fine.

What caused him to suddenly sink? What causes you to move away from your “leap of faith”? What do you think would have helped Peter stay afloat? What might help you?

4. When in your life has Jesus stretched out his hand and saved you?

5. Read Pope Francis’ remarks about this Gospel on the front of this handout. How is the Church today like the boat full of disciples in a storm?

6. Consider the first reading. Some of us have to have a “great wind,” an “earthquake,” or a “fire” in our lives before we look for God. Do you ever take time to listen for the “tiny whispering sound”? Could you if you created a quiet time in your life each day?

7. Discuss the traces of God you find in your life, or the ways God can/does speak to you. When is it easiest to hear? When in your life is it the hardest? At the end of the day do you ask yourself when you saw these traces?

8. What does the first reading and the Gospel tell you about the nature of God? About God’s son, Jesus?

9. In the second reading, Paul is grieving. Why? Have you ever been saddened watching someone reject love? What was the situation?

Petitions

Our response: “Lord, save us.”

Closing Prayer

Lord, when our hearts are afraid you are there to quiet our fears and reassure us of your abiding presence. In the chaos and storms of our lives reach our your hand to us and steady our faltering steps. Show us your face, let us hear your voice, let us more deeply recognize and understand all that you are and can be in our lives. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.