

## NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## FIRST READING

A reading from the first book of Kings

1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a

**E**lijah went into a cave and spent the night.

The LORD said, "Elijah, go out and stand on the mountain. I am going to pass that way."

At once a strong and mighty wind shook the mountain and shattered the rocks.

But the LORD was not in the wind.

An earthquake shook the ground, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake there was a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire.

After the fire, hardly a sound was heard. Elijah covered his face with his robe and went out and stood at the entrance to the cave.

**The word of the Lord.**

*Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord God.*

Responsori

Psalm 1

**Alleluia**

*R. Alleluia, alleluia.*

*See Psalm 130:5*

*I hope in the Lord,  
I trust in his word.*

*R. Alleluia, alleluia.*

**GOSPEL**

**✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew**

Matthew 14:22-33

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.

*Command me to come to  
you over the water.*

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!  
Peter then  
and star

But when  
he was afr

"Lord, sav

Right awa  
He helpe  
"You sure  
Why do y

When Jes  
The men  
"You real

The gosp

"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.

"Lord, save me!" 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!"

**The gospel of the Lord.**

August 9, 2020

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

# Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

## Today's Readings

1 Kings 19:9a, 11–13a  
Psalm 85:8abc & 9,  
10–11, 12–13  
Matthew 14:22–33

We Have Faith in Jesus

## Preparation

### Children's Leaflet

Have on hand copies of the Children's Leaflet for this Sunday. Distribute copies either at the start of the session or before the children return to the assembly.



## Prepare with Prayer

Our LORD, you have blessed your land and made all go well for Jacob's descendants. Our LORD and our God, you save us!  
(Psalm 85:1, 4)

## Scripture Background

Today's First Reading captures the prophet Elijah in a state of near-despair. In large numbers his people have abandoned God. Because Queen Jezebel has made threats against him, he has fled to the mountains.

Read 1 Kings 19 to see the story in its full context that is not covered in today's reading in the children's Lectionary. When God asks, "Why are you here?" (1 Kings 19:9) it is significant that Elijah answers by calling God "LORD God All-Powerful." In the revelation that follows, God shows that divine power doesn't manifest in bold forms alone (earthquake, wind, fire) but also in the quietest and subtlest of ways (a gentle breeze). Elijah learns that God rules the earth and guides human events at all times and in all places, even when divine presence does not seem very evident.

Today's Gospel focuses on the Apostle Peter. Because he will have a special role in the foundation of Christianity, he will need faith strong enough for him to lead and inspire others. Perhaps, then, Jesus invites Peter to join him on the stormy waters as a test of faith. Like any test, it not only measures progress but reviews and reinforces previous teaching.

## Prepare the Meeting Space

In the worship area, on a table draped with a green cloth, place:

- ▶ a Lectionary
- ▶ a battery-operated candle
- ▶ a green plant or bouquet of fresh flowers

If possible, also display a large photograph or poster showing a stormy sea or sky. Here are two possible sources:

- ▶ Many local public libraries make available art reproductions. Something like El Greco's "View of Toledo" would be ideal.
- ▶ An image could be downloaded from an online source. Google the phrase "El Greco View of Toledo image."

## Suggested Music

See page 62 for more information.

**Gathering:** "Choices" (Seeds CD-2, Track #9) or "Upon This Rock" (Promise & Good News CD-2, Track #21)

**Gospel Acclamation:** "Alleluia" (Promise & Good News CD-2, Track #14)

Peter's test of faith contains lessons for all of us. First, in a time of crisis, we must keep our eyes fixed on Jesus. We must pay more attention to him than to that which frightens us. Second, if we have kept our day-to-day relationships with Jesus strong through regular spiritual practices, we need not fear a time of crisis.

## Children's Connections

Childhood is the ideal time to memorize prayers that one will need for the rest of one's life. Even if children don't completely understand the words they memorize, their understanding will develop and grow over the years.

Religious educator Kathleen Chesto says that memorized prayers are like the default settings on a computer; they are the prayers our minds most easily recall when we feel threatened.

In his spiritual life, Jesus himself used memorized prayer—the Old Testament psalms. When he was in crisis—hanging on the Cross—it was verses of the psalms that escaped his parched lips. Apparently they came to mind when all other words had failed him.

An especially important prayer for children to learn is the Our Father. Saint Thomas Aquinas said that it educates the heart to desire all the right things. Tertullian said that it is the summary of the whole Gospel. The Our Father transforms anyone who prays it thoughtfully over the course of a lifetime, and it anchors anyone who feels threatened by one of life's storms. (A compelling example occurred on Sept. 11, 2001, when passengers of doomed Flight 93 prayed the Our Father together before rushing the terrorists controlling their plane.)

After today's Homily, you may wish to distribute copies of this prayer. Encourage the children to have their parents help them memorize it, perhaps as part of a nightly bedtime routine. There can hardly be a better way to prepare them for life.

## More About ...

### Do You Believe in Ghosts?

The Transfiguration of the Lord is also recounted in Mark 9:2–10 and Luke 9:28–36. Below is an excerpt Pope Benedict XVI's Angelus address on Aug. 6, 2006.

“Today, the liturgy invites us to focus our gaze on this mystery of light. On the transfigured face of Jesus, a ray of light which he held within shines forth. This same light was to shine on Christ's face on the day of the Resurrection. In this sense, the Transfiguration appears as a foretaste of the Paschal Mystery.

“The Transfiguration invites us to open the eyes of our hearts to the mystery of God's light, present throughout salvation history.”

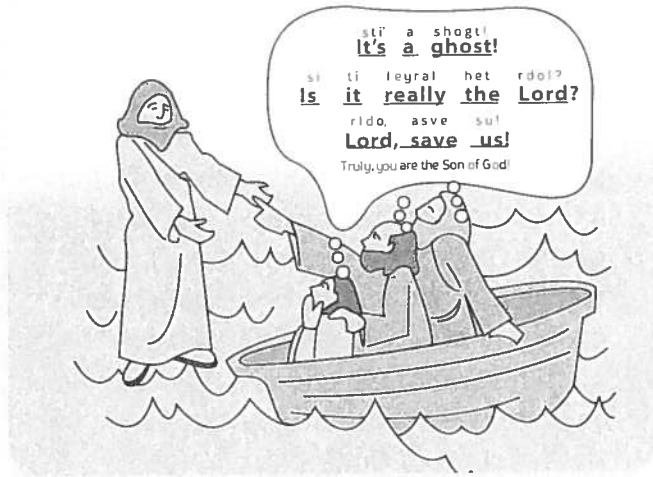
## The Children's Leaflet

The leaflet for this week helps children learn about having faith in Jesus, through a prayer, a summary of the Gospel, and a creative activity.

You may distribute the leaflet now, for use during the session, or before the children return to the assembly. If you distribute the leaflet now and time permits, you may wish to read with the children the summary of the Gospel in “The Word of God This Week” after you have read the Gospel. Point out the artwork and ask the children what is happening in the picture.

## Leaflet Activity

A clever way to highlight the advantages of focusing during prayer is offered to families in this week's leaflet. The children have a scrambled word puzzle to solve. For your convenience, this reproduction shows the solution to the activity.



## The Liturgy of the Word

### Gathering

As the children gather, sing or play the suggested song or a song about peace.

### Collect

**Leader:** Please bow your heads for prayer and respond to each petition with the words "Lead me, Lord, today."

Lord, when we feel uncertain and afraid, lead us to you.

**Children:** Lead me, Lord, today.

**Leader:** Lord, when we feel doubt and don't know the way of love, lead us to you.

**Children:** Lead me, Lord, today.

**Leader:** Lord, you are the source of everything good. Lead me in the ways of your goodness.

**Children:** Lead me, Lord, today.

**Leader:** Loving God, lead us always in the way of faith and love. When life is stormy, help us place all our trust in you.

**Children:** Amen.

Light the candle for the First Reading.

## First Reading

**Leader:** It is easy for us to forget about God's presence. God becomes like the sound from a fluorescent light in a classroom, just fading into the background of all the other classroom sounds. In today's First Reading, the prophet Elijah learns an important lesson about God's presence. Listen. Read 1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a. Then say "The word of the Lord."

**Children:** Thanks be to God.

## Responsorial Psalm

The psalm may be either sung or spoken. Before beginning, sing or announce the response.

**Leader:** Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

**Children:** Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

**Leader:** Read 85:8abc and 9, 10-11, 12-13.

## Gospel Acclamation

Invite the children to stand. Sing the suggested Acclamation or another familiar one. If you choose not to sing the Gospel Acclamation, proceed to the proclamation of the Gospel.

## Proclaim the Gospel

**Leader:** It is easy for us to believe in God's presence when everything is going OK. But what happens to our faith in the middle of a storm? In today's Gospel, we see what happens when Jesus' Apostles become frightened by a storm at sea. The Lord be with you.

**Children:** And with your Spirit.

**Leader:** A reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

**Children:** † Glory to you, O Lord.

**Leader:** Read Matthew 14:22-33. Then say, "The Gospel of the Lord."

**Children:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

## Homily

Ask the children:

- ▶ Where was Jesus when the storm began?
- ▶ When Jesus tried to rejoin his disciples, why were they afraid?
- ▶ How did Peter show courage?
- ▶ Why did Peter lose courage?

Emphasize that we, too, lose courage when we pay more attention to that which frightens us than to Jesus, who saves us. Share a story about a time when faith kept people calm in a crisis. It can be a personal story or a story from the news, such as the account of the trapped Chilean miners who prayed for help while waiting for a rescue.

Encourage the children to memorize the Our Father if they don't already know it. In a crisis, memorized prayers are often the best way to stay focused on God.

## Profession of Faith

**Leader:** Please stand to show your faith in God.

After each prayer question that I ask, please respond, "I do." Do you believe in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit?

**Children:** I do.

**Leader:** Do you believe that God is with you at all times and in all places?

**Children:** I do.

**Leader:** Do you believe that God is specially present in the holy catholic Church?

**Children:** I do.

## Prayer of the Faithful

**Leader:** In good times and in bad, we remain strong if our faith is strong. United in faith, let us pray to the God who loves us. Please say, "O God, hear our prayer" after each petition.

For all leaders of the Church, that the strength of their faith will be an example to all those they lead, let us pray to the Lord.

**Children:** O God, hear our prayer.

**Leader:** For all the children and grown-ups of our parish, that all will stay focused on God at all times, especially in times of trouble, let us pray to the Lord.

**Children:** O God, hear our prayer.



**Leader:** For all the people of our town (city, county), that God will keep them safe from every kind of danger, let us pray to the Lord.

**Children:** O God, hear our prayer.

**Leader:** Invite the children to pray their own petitions. Then pray:

Lord our God, may we never lose sight of your hand stretched out to save us. May we never fail to hear the sound of your voice, calling us to faith in you and love for one another. We ask these things through Christ our Lord.

**Children:** Amen.

## Return to Assembly

The Liturgy of the Word ends with the Prayer of the Faithful. Prepare the children to return to the assembly in a respectful manner. If you haven't already done so, distribute the leaflets. Remind the children to take the leaflets home and share them with their families. Encourage them to complete the Family Corner activities as a family.

August 9, 2020

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

# Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

## Today's Readings

1 Kings 19:9a, 11–13a  
Psalm 85:8abc & 9,  
10–11, 12–13  
Matthew 14:22–33



## We Pray

Jesus, give us strength and courage to believe in you always. Amen.

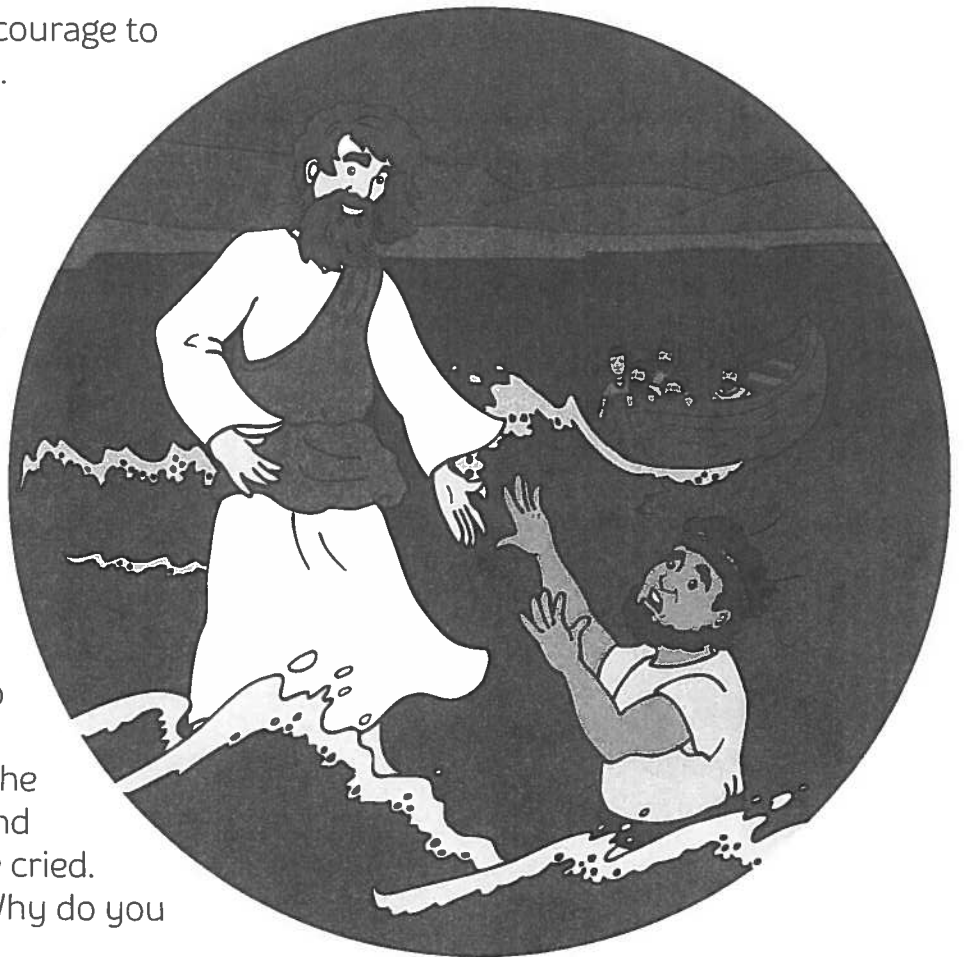


## The Word of God This Week

### We Have Faith in Jesus

One stormy night Jesus told the disciples to take the boat out and leave him on shore. Later they saw Jesus walking toward them on the water! They couldn't believe it! Peter said, "Lord, if it is really you, tell me to come to you." "Come on!" Jesus said.

Peter started walking on the water, but then got scared and started to sink. "Save me," he cried. Jesus saved him and said, "Why do you doubt, Peter?"





## Activity

The disciples were in their boat when a strong wind blew in. It shook the boat, and it shook their faith. In this picture, it even shook up their words! Help the disciples stay focused on Jesus. Unscramble the words.



## Family Corner

### Faith Focus

Who but Jesus could be so reassuring when the waters are churning? Life is full of stormy waters that shake our faith just as the stormy waters distracted Peter's focus from Jesus. It can be easy to be distracted by our weaknesses. And it's easy to be distracted by our busy schedules. Don't be afraid to keep your focus on Jesus. And don't be afraid to call for his help!

### Family Activity

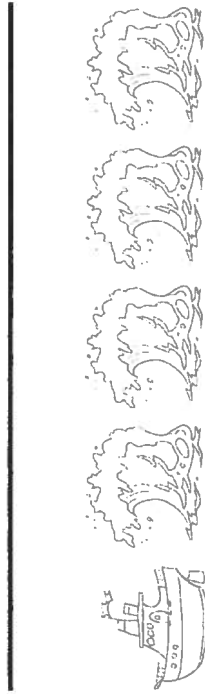
Try this twist on the "Telephone" game. Turn on the radio and television. Sit in a circle. The starting person whispers one or two sentences to the next person, who whispers them to the next, and so on. The last person says the message out loud, and all compare it to the message they heard. Try several rounds and eliminate a distraction each time. Discuss how eliminating distractions would help your relationship with Jesus.

# GROWING WITH THE Gospel

CYCLE A

## PUZZLE

Circle the group in each row that has **more**.  
Then color in all the pictures.



## MISSION

I will remember that you can save me.



## COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.





## GOSPEL

Jesus went up the mountain to pray. You went with him. You got high above everything. Tents and people looked like little dots. You then realize that you are not as big as you thought you were. When you go to Jesus for help when you are afraid, God is good. His strength makes you appear bigger and stronger than you have ever been before. With God's strength and power, you can say, "NO," to evil ways.



## PRAYER

Jesus, you are the Son of God.



## DRAW

Draw Peter walking on water, sinking with fear, then being saved by Jesus.

# GROWING <sup>+</sup>

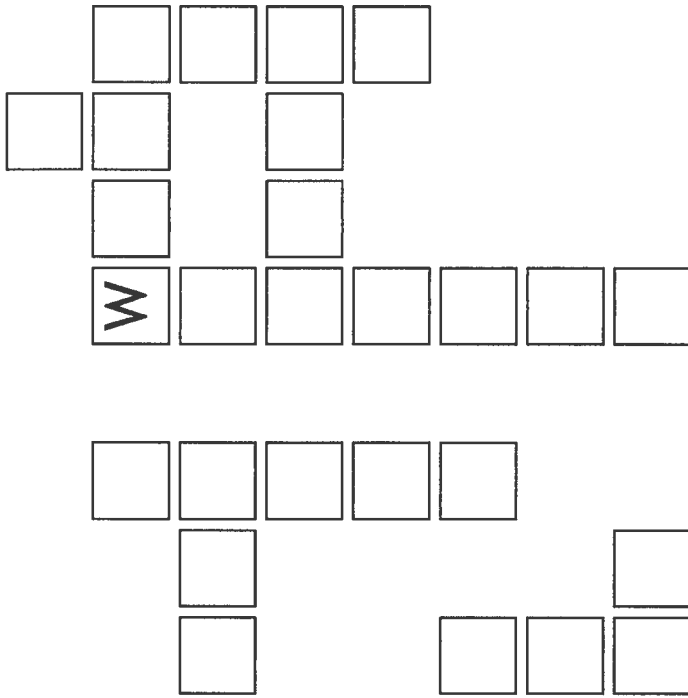
WITH THE **Gospel**

CYCLE A

## PUZZLE

Fit this Gospel message into the empty squares.

**Jesus went out to them,  
walking on the lake.**



## MISSION

When you are afraid, ask Jesus for help.  
Remember how powerful he is.



## COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.

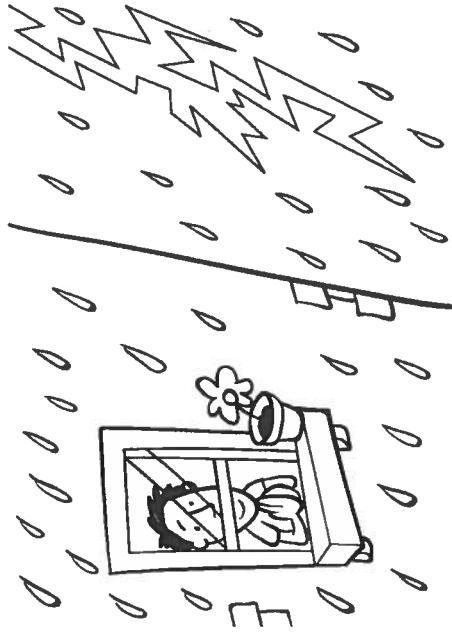


BECAUSE VIBRANT  
CHURCHES MATTER



## DRAW

Draw a picture of Jesus walking on water.



## GOSPEL

One night the disciples were caught in a storm, out in the middle of a lake. The winds were strong. The waves crashed against their boat. But Jesus was so powerful, he walked on that stormy lake. Then he completely stopped the storm. No problem you have is ever too big for Jesus. He can do anything. Put all your trust in him.



## PRAYER

Jesus, I thank you for showing me how powerful you are.



BECAUSE VIBRANT  
CHURCHES MATTER