



THE LORD'S DAY AT HOME

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
9th August 2020

If you are housebound or self-isolating at this time, please use these prayers to unite yourself with the worship of the Universal Church, and your own Parish, this Sunday. If alone, read or say these prayers quietly to yourself. If with another, or in a family, someone should read the "leader" parts, and others respond. It might be suitable to find a special, quiet place at home for your Sunday prayers.

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon

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.

Sign of the Cross

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

A: Amen.

Introduction

L: Another miracle this week – and one of the most dramatic (as we can tell by the reactions of the men in the boat) when Jesus walks on water. After this miracle, they bow down and proclaim that he is "the Son of God." We make the same profession in our prayers this Sunday, as we ask for God's mercy, and praise God saying:

Gloria

A: 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.

Opening prayer

L: Let us pray.

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.

A: Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Gospel reading *Matthew 14:22-33*

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 headwind. 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.

A: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Reflection

As we said last week, Every miracle is a message. So what is the message for us in this miracle of walking on the water? It might seem as though it serves no purpose (unlike the miracles of healing), but there is healing going on here. There is the healing of the doubts and fears of those who witness this miracle: notice how they are "terrified", thinking they are seeing a ghost! Jesus, from the water's surface, tells them not to be afraid. And when Peter (whose nickname means "rock"!) begins to sink like a stone because doubt overtakes him, Jesus reaches out his hand at once to heal his doubt. This miracle may have happened once in the past, but its message is to speak to us today. What are our fears? Where are our doubts? Let us call out to Jesus, and he will reach out at once to save us.

A Thought for our Younger

Friends

Have you ever thought about having a superpower? Like being able to fly, or superstrength, or invisibility! What would your superpower be? (And what would your superheroine/superhero name be?) Have some fun thinking about that. But then think about this: what would you use your superpowers for? Hopefully for good! Being able to walk on water sounds good, but perhaps it's not much use! So why does Jesus do it? Jesus always works miracles to help people, so walking on the water must be to help someone! Jesus helps Peter and his friends and even the crew in

the boat – he helps them to believe in God and in him! Jesus wants to help you, today: think about him reaching out to help you just as he helped Saint Peter.

If gathering as a family, perhaps now continue to have a discussion about what this Gospel passage means to you. If alone, think about what key message you take from the Gospel.

Profession of Faith

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.

Intercessions

L: Let us pray for the needs of the Church and the world.

L: Let us pray for anyone in our world who is afraid for any reason; that Jesus may calm their fears. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

L: Let us pray for anyone besieged by doubt; that they may open themselves to the touch of Jesus. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

L: We join Pope Francis this August in praying for the maritime world, especially for all whose livelihood depends on the seas, rivers or lakes. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

Please add your own prayers for the needs of the Church, the world and your local community. You may wish to add particular prayers for family

members, friends or neighbours in need at this time.

THE COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer

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

A: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

L: 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.

A: Amen.

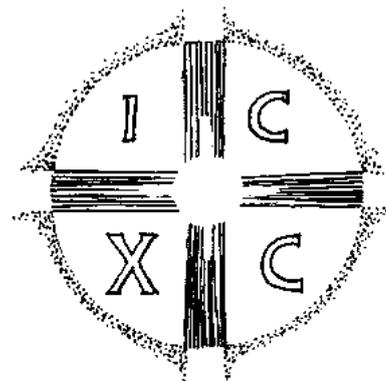
Preparation for Spiritual Communion

L: Almighty Father, you so loved the world that in your mercy you sent us the Redeemer, to live like us in all things but sin, so that you might love in us what you loved in your Son, by whose obedience we have been restored to those gifts of yours that, by sinning, we had lost in disobedience. At the Last Supper your beloved Son showed the fullness of your love, as he gave his Body and Blood for his people. Even though we are not in Church, and not able to receive communion today, we open our minds and hearts now to your generous love and the gift of Jesus your Son, welcoming him spiritually into our lives.

Spiritual Communion

A: My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever. Amen.

Pause for a moment of silent prayer and reflection.



Thanksgiving Psalm

L: Let us see, O Lord, your mercy, and give us your saving help.

L: 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.

A: Let us see, O Lord, your mercy, and give us your saving help.

L: Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced.

Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven.

A: Let us see, O Lord, your mercy, and give us your saving help.

L: The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit. Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps.

A: Let us see, O Lord, your mercy, and give us your saving help.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

Final Prayer and Blessing

L: Let us pray.

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

A: Amen.

L: May the Lord ✕ bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

A: Amen.

L: Let us bless the Lord!

A: Thanks be to God!