



Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 7, 2011

God Comes to Us

Focus: To find God in unexpected places.

Lectionary #115

1 Kings 19:9a, 11–13a

Psalms 85:9, 10, 11–12,
13–14

Romans 9:1–5

Matthew 14:22–33

Catechist's Context

All the readings this Sunday challenge us to recognize God in our midst. See him in justice that shakes the world like an earthquake, in peace that whispers in the stillness of our hearts, in power that strides over chaos as Christ walked on water, and in the firm hand of the Lord that saves us.

Sign of the Cross

All make the Sign of the Cross.

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

Alleluia

See Psalm 130:5

Alleluia, alleluia.

I wait for the Lord;
my soul waits for his word.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Based on Matthew 14:22–33

Invite the children to listen to you and to watch you, and then to repeat what you say and do.

Jesus

Touch center of each palm with middle finger of opposite hand.

sent his disciples across the sea

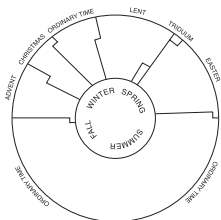
Make waves with your hands.

in a boat.

Row imaginary oars.

Meanwhile, Jesus

Touch center of each palm with middle finger of opposite hand.



Liturgical Calendar Connection

Invite the children to locate this Sunday on the liturgical calendar. Invite them to locate special days that you've shared this year, like Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost.

Connecting to the Word

© What happens when you drop something heavy into a pool of water?

Let's hear what happens when Jesus steps on the water of the sea in this Sunday's Gospel.

went up a mountain to pray.
Fold hands in prayer.

After dark, the wind blew hard.
Make whooshing sounds.

The boat on the water
Make waves with your hands.

rocked so much
Sway widely back and forth.

that the disciples were afraid.
Look worried, and pretend to bite your nails.

Suddenly, they saw
Searching eyes.

Jesus
Touch center of each palm with middle finger of opposite hand.

walking on top of the water!
Walk in place.

They thought he was a ghost!
Look worried, and pretend to bite your nails.

Jesus called out to them:
Cup hands around your mouth.

“It is I.
Point to self.

Don’t be afraid.”
Pretend to bite your nails, and then shake your head.

Peter said:
Chatty hand, thumb against fingers.

“Lord, if it’s you,
Cup hands around your mouth.

tell me to come to you on the water.”
Make waves with your hands.

Jesus said: “Come.”
Beckoning hand.

Peter stepped out on the waves,
Make waves with your hands.

and Jesus gave him power
Strong arms.

to walk on top of the water.
Walk in place.

Suddenly, Peter became frightened.
Look worried, and pretend to bite your nails.

His fear made him sink.
Arms out, and bend knees, like you’re sinking.

Peter cried out:
Cup hands around mouth.

“Lord, save me!”
Look worried, and pretend to bite your nails.

Jesus pulled Peter out of the water.
Reach down to grab an imaginary hand.

Then Jesus said:
Chatty hand, thumb against fingers.

“O you of little faith,
Make an inch with your thumb and forefinger.

why did you doubt?”
Wondering shrug, hands out to sides.

When they got in the boat,
Row imaginary oars.

the other disciples worshipped Jesus.
Fold hands in prayer.

They said:
Chatty hand, thumb against fingers.

“Truly, you are the Son of God.”
Point heavenward.

Gospel Reflection

Recognizing and Trusting God

☉ I wonder how Jesus could walk on top of the water.

Jesus is God, and God has power to do anything. Neither water, storms, nor fear have any power over God.

☉ I wonder how Peter could walk on water when he isn’t God.

Jesus gave Peter power to walk on the water. As long as Peter trusted Jesus, he was fine.

☉ I wonder why Peter stopped trusting Jesus. Sometimes it's hard for us to believe and trust in a power that is so much greater than our own. We can't understand God, and we have a hard time believing in what we can't understand.

☉ I wonder why the other disciples began praying to Jesus.

When the other disciples realized what power Jesus had, they knew he was God's own Son.

Water Experiments

You will need a tub of water and various objects to do this activity.

This week, do some water experiments. Try putting different objects in a bowl or tub of water. See which ones float and which do not. Before you place something in the water, invite the children to speculate whether or not it will float. Invite someone to take off his or her shoes and stand on the water. Ask everyone else to observe what happens. Talk about the power of God that enabled Jesus to walk on top of the water. What else can the power of God do?

Focus on Church Teaching

As Peter stepped out on the water, so we step into the chaos of the world, not fearful or fleeing, but heeding God's word and trusting him to uphold us (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2584). As Jesus saved Peter when he cried out, so he saves each of us. Those who cry out to Jesus, especially the poor, are heard in compassion by the followers of Christ (*Gaudium et Spes*, 1).

Reenact the Story

You will need a large cardboard box or boat shape cut from paper or cardboard to do this activity.

Use a large cardboard box for a boat, or cut a large, simple boat shape from a sheet of butcher paper or bulletin board paper. Choose a child to represent Jesus, and seat the rest of the children in the boat. Tell the children that the floor is the sea. Invite them to reenact the story:

- ☉ Jesus walks on the water.
- ☉ The disciples show fear.
- ☉ Jesus tells them it is he, not a ghost on the water.
- ☉ Peter asks Jesus to enable him to walk on the waves.
- ☉ Jesus tells Peter to come.
- ☉ Peter walks on the water, but he becomes afraid and sinks.
- ☉ Peter cries out to Jesus, and Jesus saves him.
- ☉ Jesus asks: "Why did you doubt?"
- ☉ Peter and Jesus get in the boat.
- ☉ The disciples worship Jesus, recognizing him as the Son of God.

Walk on Water Drawings

You will need paper and coloring materials to do this activity.

Provide paper and coloring materials, and invite the children to draw Jesus walking on top of the water. Explain that when the disciples saw this, they knew Jesus was God's own Son. Only God could do the things Jesus did.

Prayers and Blessings at Home

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Lectionary Readings

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Romans 9:1–5

Matthew 14:22–33

Our Father

**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.**

Prayer for the Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Not in the wind, and not in the
earthquake, and not in the fire
were you present, O God,
but where we least expect you:
in a voice that whispers in the heart's
deepest silence,
in a call to venture forth against all reason
and odds.**

**Reach out your hand to us of little faith,
that we may take heart and not be afraid.**

We ask this through your Son,

Jesus Christ,

who lives and reigns with you

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God forever and ever.

Amen.

Family Blessing

This summer, as a family, find one thing each day that reveals God's great wisdom and love. Share this each evening, and finish with this simple blessing, naming what you've discussed.

**Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.
Through your goodness, you have given
us**

Living the Liturgy at Home

Jesus called Peter to walk to him across the sea of human troubles. Peter became overwhelmed and nearly drowned in his own doubt, but when he cried out, Jesus saved him. Who in your community is "drowning" and calling out to be saved? Choose something you can do as a family to bring the peace of Christ this week to someone who is overwhelmed. You might do yard work for a neighbor who is struggling with health problems, invite someone who is lonely to join you for a meal, or pick up groceries or offer to do housework for a family with a new baby. Let these individuals know they're in your prayers.