



# 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

In this Sunday's Gospel, the disciples identify Jesus as God's own Son. Help the children to do the same, encouraging them to become more aware of the many ways and times we can call on Jesus to help us through tough times and give us peace.

## 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.**

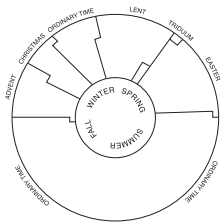
## Alleluia

*See Psalm 130:5*

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

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

**Alleluia, alleluia.**



## Liturgical Calendar Connection

Help the children to find the Nineteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time on the liturgical calendar. See if anyone can remember why it is green. Count ahead to see how many Sundays are left in the liturgical year. Remind the children that this liturgical year ends and a new one begins with the solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe.

# Gospel

Matthew 14:22–33

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.”

## Gospel Reflection

### Jesus’ Amazing Walk

☉ Does anyone remember the miracle of the loaves and the fish that we read about in last Sunday’s Gospel?

In this Sunday’s Gospel, the crowds go home feeling full of both food and God’s love. Matthew continues the story with another miracle that made Jesus’ friends realize who Jesus must be!

☉ Why do you think Jesus told the disciples to go across the lake without him?

As the disciples started to row away, the sky grew dark and winds began to blow. It started to thunder and rain came pouring down.

☉ I wonder how the disciples felt, alone in the boat without Jesus.

☉ What did the disciples see next?

☉ How do you think it would feel to see Jesus walking on water?

☉ What would you say to Jesus if he were walking on water toward you?

☉ What did Peter do?

☉ Why do you think Peter started to fall into the water?

☉ Do you think that you would try to walk on water if you were Peter? Why?

## Focus on Church Teaching

In the story of Jesus walking on water, we see Jesus as one who speaks and exercises power biblically attributed to God. Only God could control and walk on the chaotic forces of the water and of a troubled world. Jesus is Word of God made flesh. Through Jesus all things were made so that as a perfect man he could save all women and men and sum up all things in himself (*Gaudium et Spes*, 45). Here with the apostles, we see his true identity as the Son of God.

## Jesus, Help Us

In this Sunday's Gospel, the disciples really needed Jesus' help. They did not know what to do. Even though they were scared at first because they thought he was a ghost, they probably felt really good when they saw Jesus walking on the water toward them.

In our lives, we also find ourselves in scary situations sometimes. In those times, we can turn to Jesus for help. Invite each child to name an example of a situation that might be scary or distressing, such as a fight with a friend or a time when the power goes out. After each example, have the group say: **Jesus, help us.**

## Psalm 63

Read all or part of Psalm 63 aloud to the children. Explain that the disciples might have learned this psalm at school or heard it in the synagogue.

☉ I wonder what this psalm would have meant to Jesus' friends after the experience that we hear about in this Sunday's Gospel.

## Jesus Is . . .

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

Divide the children into two teams. Have the teams take turns coming up with epithets or other names that we sometimes use for Jesus. The team that comes up with the most examples wins. If the children are having trouble, get them started by giving them a few of the following examples. As an alternative to this activity, you might go through the following list and talk as a group about what each name tells us about Jesus.

- ☉ Christ
- ☉ Savior
- ☉ Lord
- ☉ Master
- ☉ Teacher
- ☉ Son of God
- ☉ Emmanuel
- ☉ Messiah
- ☉ King of the Jews
- ☉ Lamb of God
- ☉ Light of the World
- ☉ Bread of Life

# ***Prayers and Blessings at Home***

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### **Lectionary Readings**

1 Kings 19:9a, 11–13a

Psalm 85:9, 10, 11–12, 13–14

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.**

**in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God forever and ever.  
Amen.**

### **Family Blessing**

As you go off to work or school this week, take time to send each other forth by using your thumb to make the sign of the cross on each other's foreheads as a sign of blessing.

### **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**

### ***Living the Liturgy at Home***

Once again, Peter is bold in his faith at one moment and doubtful in the next. When he relied on the presence of Jesus and not his own power, he could walk on stormy waters. Our family members are like Peter. Our faith is real, but we experience doubt often: during arguments and hurt feelings, illness, stress, money troubles, and real storms. When your family faces stormy weather of any kind, how do you rely on Jesus? Locate a candle and light it when the next summer storm approaches. Get in the habit of relying on Jesus to give you peace in any kind of trouble.