

SUNDAY GOSPEL BIBLE SHARING



Wednesday August 9th for the 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

OPENING PRAYER : God of Creation, you make yourself known to us in the gentle breezes and storms of life. You come to reassure us of your saving presence and care for us. Be with us now as we gather to share life and break open your Holy Word. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

READING OF THE ASSIGNED GOSPEL

- In the words of Saint Benedict, "Listen with the ears of your heart."
- Please note a word, phrase, or verse that seemed to really catch your notice.
- A volunteer slowly read aloud today's passage Afterwards, we have a few minutes of silent reflection.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

22 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.

23 After doing so, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When it was evening he was there alone.

24 Meanwhile the boat, already a few miles offshore, was being tossed about by the waves, for the wind was against it.

25 During the fourth watch of the night, he came toward them walking on the sea.

26 When the disciples saw him walking on the sea they were terrified. "It is a ghost," they said, and they cried out in fear.

27 At once Jesus spoke to them, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid."

28 Peter said to him in reply, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."

29 He said, "Come."

Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus.

30 But when he saw how strong the wind was he became frightened; and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"

31 Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and caught Peter, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

32 After they got into the boat, the wind died down.

33 Those who were in the boat did him homage, saying, "Truly, you are the Son of God."

* [14:22–33] The disciples, laboring against the turbulent sea, are saved by Jesus. For his power over the waters, see note on Mt 8:26. Here that power is expressed also by his walking on the sea (Mt 14:25; cf. Ps 77:20; Jb 9:8). Matthew has inserted into the Marcan story (Mk 6:45–52) material that belongs to his special traditions on Peter (Mt 14:28–31).

* [14:25] The fourth watch of the night: between 3 a.m. and 6 a.m. The Romans divided the twelve hours between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. into four equal parts called “watches.”

* [14:27] It is I: see note on Mk 6:50.

* [14:31] You of little faith: see note on Mt 6:30. Why did you doubt?: the verb is peculiar to Matthew and occurs elsewhere only in Mt 28:17.

* [14:33] This confession is in striking contrast to the Marcan parallel (Mk 6:51) where the disciples are “completely astounded.”

Matthew 14:22-33

Thoughts and reflection on the Gospel Passage

QUESTIONS FOR SHARING

1. In the Gospel, Jesus’ presence allowed Peter to do something he would never dream of doing. How has Jesus enabled you to do something you otherwise would have been afraid to do?
2. Can you recall one big stormy event where you felt Jesus’ presence?
3. Name one thing today’s Gospel says to us that we disciples of Jesus need to heed and act on.

Commentary

This story follows directly after the miracles of the loaves and fishes. In that story, we recall that Jesus’ effort to go to a quiet place to pray was interrupted by the crowds. So after his long day of teaching the multitudes, he heads off to the mountain for quiet time. In the meantime, the disciples get into a boat and head out to sea. But, suddenly, a big storm erupts and they become very frightened. Then without invitation, Jesus comes towards them. At first, they think he is a ghost. Jesus tells them to ‘take courage’ as they confront a big storm. Peter asks if he can come to Jesus walking on the water, something

that takes a lot of courage. As long as Peter keeps his eyes on Jesus, he does well, but once he focuses on the storm, he starts to sink. Jesus comes to Peter's aid and takes his hand. Our constant challenge, especially in times of fear, is to put our hand in the hand of Jesus. Jesus saves his frightened friend and rebukes him for his 'little faith.' Recognizing Jesus' power over nature, the disciples worship him saying: "Truly you are the Son of God." Writing his Gospel many decades later, Matthew applies the incident to his congregation. The disciples in the boat represent the infant church. The stormy winds represent the fierce persecution of the early church. While Jesus is not with them physically, he is present spiritually. When all seems lost, Jesus shows up. The part of the story where Peter walks on water and then sinks could refer to Peter's lapse of faith during the passion and his restoration by Jesus after the Resurrection. It is also symbolic of how any of us could start out courageously and then falter when the storm or crisis comes our way.

IS THERE A CAUSE FOR GRATITUDE THIS WEEK?

IS THERE A PRAYER REQUEST YOU HAVE?

CLOSING PRAYER - The Lord's Prayer

Bible Sharing Room 5 and Zoom
Starting Aug 9 from 6:30 – 7:30 pm EST Weekly on Wednesday
notes

Description: Blessed Sacrament is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Blessed Sacrament's Zoom Meeting
Time: August 9, 2023 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/86903804010?pwd=MGJydS9qSW9LSzNGblZSM2xZcWpGZz09>

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86903804010?pwd=MGJydS9qSW9LSzNGblZSM2xZcWpGZz09>

Meeting ID: 869 0380 4010

Passcode: 086586

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event

Organizer: Blessed Sacrament Parish