

The Living Word

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

9 August 2026

First Reading 1 Kgs 19:9.11-13

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

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.' Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8

(R.) Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

1. 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. (R.)
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven. (R.)
3. The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 9:1-5

I would willingly be condemned if it could help my people.

What I want to say is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ – it is the truth – my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were

made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

Gospel Acclamation Lk 19:38

Alleluia, alleluia!

I hope in the Lord,

I trust in his word.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 14:22-33

Command me to come to you over the water.

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 head-wind. 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.'



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

The disciples had started off from the Jewish side of the Sea of Galilee, familiar territory. Jesus guided them through the stormy situation to 'the other side', the pagan side, unfamiliar territory where they would not have felt at home.

Buffeted by storms, the Church is in the midst of a journey from familiar to unfamiliar territory.

Some of the storms include a new attitude to authority, to gender roles. There is anger and suspicion at sexual abuse and its cover up. Many of our contemporaries are openly hostile or contentedly indifferent.

In all these situations and many more, Our Lord will not allow us the indulgence of nostalgic yearning for the safety of the past country inhabited by the Church. We are not to throw Tradition with a capital 'T' overboard. To jettison the spirit-led experience of the Church over two millennia will not help us. Discerning tradition from nostalgia, we must make our way to the other shore.

We could pause for a moment, resolving to row with courage because we know we are in the same boat as Peter whom our Risen Lord assures:

'Do not be afraid.'

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St Clare of Assisi was born in Italy in 1194 AD to a wealthy noble family. As a child she was devoted to prayer and at the age of eighteen she heard St Francis of Assisi preach and she was inspired to follow his example, despite the protestations of her family. After living a life of strict poverty with the Benedictine nuns, she eventually lead a new order known as the "Poor Ladies of San Damiano". For a time the order was directed by St Francis himself, and Clare cared for him in his final days. In 1224 the Prussian King, Frederick II led an army to take the town of Assisi. It is believed that Clare faced the army carrying only the Blessed Sacrament, and that suddenly the army was overcome with fear and fled. Ten years after her death in 1253, her order became known as the Order of St Clare. In 1958 Pope Pius XII named Clare as the patron saint of television based on the story that when she was sick and unable to attend mass she could reportedly see and hear it on the wall of her room.



Wordsearch

Try to find these words:

afraid
boat
faith

ghost
helped
Peter

pray
sink
tossed

water
waves
wind

W	P	I	J	Z	A	T	O	S	S	E	D	T	S	O	H	G
Q	A	Q	Z	D	T	B	M	B	R	E	B	H	Q	N	N	R
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C	R	P	Z	E	U	J	T	X	K	V	K	S	L	J	S	H
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Y	W	O	Q	R	T	F	T	V	F	F	D	P	L	S	Z	G

Help Jesus find his way across the water and onto the boat.
Be sure to pick up St Peter along the way!

