



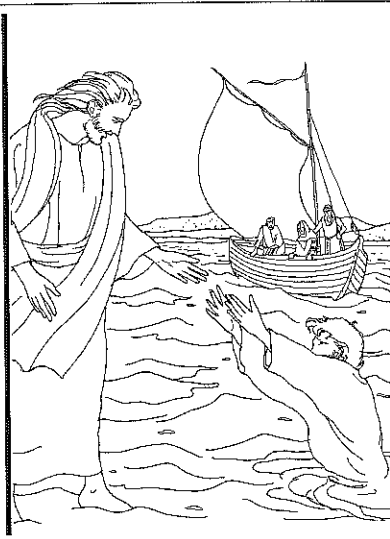
19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

RESPONSE: Psalm 40

"Here I am,
O my God;
I come
to do your will.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Jesus said,
"Don't be afraid!
Come to me."
Alleluia!



LITURGICAL SEASON BACKGROUND

The season of Ordinary Time continues to unfold for us the many wonders of the reign of God. Throughout this season we celebrate the Easter mysteries over and over again, each time dwelling on a different specific aspect of our relationship with God. In doing this, we cannot only learn about the reign of God, but we also can find ourselves being drawn more deeply in the mystery of God's love and experience the joy of the Holy Spirit within our hearts.

SCRIPTURE BACKGROUND

Today's readings present us with still more ways to encounter God. Elijah's experience in the first reading has something to say to us all, as we sometimes tend to look for God in overwhelming displays of power. Only when Elijah was able to quiet himself enough to be attentive to the whisper of a gentle breeze did he finally achieve the encounter with God that he had been seeking.

In the Gospel, Peter and the others have an experience that is not unlike Elijah's. In the well-known account of Jesus' calming of the storm, the disciples are overwhelmed with fear during a strong wind on the lake. They are no less afraid when they first notice Jesus walking towards them on the water. Like we might do, Peter demands proof that it is really Jesus approaching, so Jesus invites him out of the boat to walk toward him. All is well until Peter realizes what peril he is in and begins to sink. Only then does Jesus reach out, save Peter, and quiet the wind and waves. Focusing on Jesus to the exclusion of all else will bring us calm, too. But attempting to rely on ourselves, we will sink as surely as did Peter.

LITURGICAL ENVIRONMENT

The environment for Ordinary Time would be simple, featuring basic symbols of the liturgy. A candle, perhaps incense, and a plant or group of plants would convey the desired tone. The liturgical color is green. You might display the *SUNDAY Scripture Poster*, which illustrates the Gospel story of Jesus walking on water to the disciples who were in a boat on a stormy night. The poster could be sent home with a different family each week to color for the next celebration. The book of God's word, displayed facing the assembly, is the focal point of the gathering space.

EVALUATION

We are providing this brief evaluation form for use after you have celebrated this Sunday's liturgy with the children.

Notes for future reference:

What went well?

What needs improvement?

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year A

CENTERING / PROCESSIONAL SONG

You might use the same centering / gathering song for several Sundays in a row during this season.

Suggestions:

- “Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty”, Vol. 1 *Sing God a Simple Song*, #48, Treehaus Communications; also in most hymnals and missalettes).
- “For the Beauty of the Earth” (Vol. 1 *Sing God a Simple Song*, #49, Treehaus Communications).
- “Peace is Flowing Like a River” (Vol. 2 *Sing God a Simple Song*, #51, Treehaus Communications).
- “To Jesus Christ, Our Sovereign King” (Vol. 2 *Sing God a Simple Song*, #46, Treehaus Communications).

FIRST READING 1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a

The reader can be either a child or an adult; in either case, this person would know ahead of time in order to prepare carefully. This reading might be read as one would read a dramatic story, conveying the seriousness of the circumstances it describes and the peace that comes at the ending.

PSALM RESPONSE

The psalm is not only a response to the first reading, but “responsorial” is the style in which the psalm is prayed, with the children responding to the cantor or reader. You might use the same psalm through several Sundays in a row during this season.

Suggestions:

- Psalm 40: “Here I Am, O God” (Walker, *SUNDAY Book of Readings/Lectionary Adapted for Children and SUNDAY Weekly Leader’s Guide*, Year A, page 102, Treehaus Communications; *Music for Children’s Liturgy of the Word*, Cycle A, Treehaus Communications/O.C.P. Publications).
- Psalm 85: “Lord, Make Us Turn to You” (Haugen, Vol. 1 *Sing God a Simple Song*, #5, Treehaus Communications).
- Psalm 19: “Lord, You Have the Words” (Vol. 2 *Sing God a Simple Song*, #39, Treehaus Communications).
- Psalm 103: “Bless the Lord, My Soul” (Vol. 2 *Sing God a Simple Song*, #36, Treehaus Communications).

You may wish to follow the gestures suggested in *Sing God a Simple Song*.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Suggestions:

- “Don’t Be Afraid” (Walker, *SUNDAY Book of Readings/Lectionary Adapted for Children and SUNDAY Weekly Leader’s Guide*, Year A, page 102, Treehaus Communications; *Music for Children’s Liturgy of the Word*, Cycle A, Treehaus Communications/O.C.P. Publications).
- “Halle, Halle, Halle” (Caribbean, Vol. 1 *Sing God a Simple Song*, #43, Treehaus Communications).
- Psalm 113: “Praise His Name” (Vol. 2 *Sing God a Simple Song*, #38, Treehaus Communications).
- “Salisbury Alleluia” (Vol. 2 *Sing God a Simple Song*, #41, Treehaus Communications).

You may wish to follow the gestures suggested in *Sing God a Simple Song*.

GOSPEL Matthew 14:22-33

Usually the presider reads the Gospel. This reading might be read as one would tell a dramatic story, like the first reading, taking care to express the peace and comfort that Jesus brings at the conclusion of this passage.

HOMILY OUTLINE

See *SUNDAY Weekly Leader Guide*, Year A, pages 102 and 103, for “Focus of Readings” and “Reflecting on the Readings With Children.” When reflecting on the scriptures with children we take our cues from the children’s responses. In so doing, you might use some of the questions below to enrich their appreciation of God’s word.

WE LISTEN TO GOD SPEAK

- What might the children in the assembly hear God saying to them in today's readings?
- How might you engage the children in the biblical experience with open-ended questions?

Examples for this week's readings:

Concerning the first reading:

- Why do you think someone was trying to kill Elijah?
- Why do you think God wanted Elijah to come out of the cave? Why couldn't they meet inside the cave?
- What does it tell you about God when you hear that God was not in the strong wind, the earthquake, or the fire, but was in the gentle breeze?
- Why do you think God chose to make his presence known to Elijah as a gentle breeze?
- Why do you think Elijah covered his face with a scarf before meeting God?

Concerning the Gospel:

- Why do you think Jesus told the disciples to sail the boat to the other side of the lake?
- Why do you think the disciples thought they saw a "ghost"? Why do you think they were so afraid?
- Why do you think Jesus chose to walk across the water to the disciples' boat?
- Why do you think Peter would tell Jesus to prove he was really the Lord by allowing Peter to walk across the water?
- Why did Peter have such little faith? Would you trust someone that told you to walk across the water in a storm?
- Why do you think the wind stopped when Jesus and Peter got into the boat?

WE REFLECT ON THE REIGN OF GOD

- How can you invite the children to look out of the biblical experience at their lives today?
- How can you use the biblical imagery of today's readings to explore with children their experience of God's presence in our lives today?

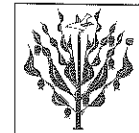
Examples for this week's readings:

Concerning the first reading:

- What experiences of God's presence have you had that are like Elijah's?
- What have people told you about their experiences of God's presence? How are they like Elijah's? How are they different from Elijah's?
- How has God come to you as a gentle breeze?
- How would you feel if you heard someone wanted to kill you? What would you do?

Concerning the Gospel:

- When might Jesus have asked you to do something as risky as walking on water?
- What is it like for you to risk something while placing complete trust in Jesus?
- What are some "storms" today that you have asked Jesus to calm?



□ WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

- How might you attune yourself to encourage the children's own creative responses to God's word?
- How might the Spirit be moving the children to respond to God's word in praise and thanksgiving?

Examples for this week's readings

- How can we show others that we have strong faith in our Lord and God by the things we do?
- In what quiet and gentle ways might God come to us? How can we know when God comes to us? What can we do to be ready?

CREED

Invite children to profess our faith by creedal statements that echo the readings. To formulate the statements, reflect on what the readings say about God as Creator, Jesus as Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit as Gift of Life. Express these statements so that the children can give their assent to them. This week's readings, for example, offer these options:

- God, who comes to us with the gentleness of a breeze.
- Jesus, who calms the storms of our life.
- Holy Spirit, who strengthens our faith so that we can find peace with God.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

The proclamation of the word leads us to change our lives and express our gratitude in the celebration of the Eucharist. After the children have offered their prayers and concerns, you might also offer petitions based on the scripture texts. See notes for Trinity Sunday for guidelines on preparing petitions. In formulating the prayers, you might draw from the verbs or "action words" and biblical images in this week's readings. For example: "there was a gentle breeze," "don't be afraid," "Lord, save me!" "Jesus reached out."

NOTE: Arrange to have SUNDAY Scripture Leaflets given to the children as they are leaving Mass. Encourage children and parents to use these leaflets through the week to continue reflecting prayerfully on God's word. In addition, emphasize the use of Light of the World, Our Family Spiritual Life Journal, pages 102 and 103, (Treehaus Communications, Inc.) as a way of assisting the family's deeper reflection on God's word at home.



Liturgy of the Word

August 7, 2011

CENTERING / PROCESSIONAL SONG

• "To Jesus Christ, Our Sovereign King" (Vol. 2 *Sing God a Simple Song*, #46, Treehaus Communications).

Substitutions / Additional Notes:

OPENING PRAYER

Presider: God of gentleness and peace, you comfort us when we are finding things difficult in our lives. May your Holy Spirit help us to learn to be attentive to your constant presence in our lives. We pray in the name of Jesus, who came to teach us of your goodness.

All: Amen.

Substitutions / Additional Notes:

FIRST READING 1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a

Today's Reader: _____

Presider: Today we will hear of an amazing adventure involving the prophet Elijah.

Substitutions / Additional Notes:

PSALM RESPONSE

Presider or Leader of Song: We are eager to do God's will, and so we sing:

Substitutions / Additional Notes:

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

• "Don't Be Afraid" (Walker, *SUNDAY Book of Readings/Lectionary Adapted for Children* and *SUNDAY Weekly Leader's Guide*, Year A, page 102, Treehaus Communications; *Music for Children's Liturgy of the Word*, Cycle A, Treehaus Communications/O.C.P. Publications).

Substitutions / Additional Notes:

GOSPEL Matthew 14:22-33

Today's Reader: _____

Preliminary Comments:

Liturgy Celebration for August 7, 2011 • 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year A

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HOMILY

Focal Points: We often fall into the same traps as Elijah and Peter. We think of God as this huge, powerful, perhaps even frightening “being”. That was how Elijah expected to encounter God. But Elijah was undoubtedly surprised and comforted to find God in the gentlest of breezes. In the Gospel, when the disciples become frightened of the storm, they do not recognize Jesus coming towards them and become even more frightened at the sight. Jesus, always gentle, simply invites Peter to walk out to him. Peter is able to walk on the water like Jesus! That is, until he realizes what he is doing and starts to sink. In the end, it is Jesus who brings calm to all. Interestingly, the storm did not end when Jesus approached. Instead, it ended when Peter and the others recognized Jesus. It is the same for us. We need to recognize Jesus in the many ways he is present to us in order to find the peace that God wants us to have. Let us be attentive to the many ways (and the gentleness of those ways) that God sends Jesus into our lives to bring us the peace of God’s reign.

Outline / Ideas:

CREED

Presider: God, we celebrate your love for us as we say:

Do you believe in God, who comes to us with the gentleness of a breeze?

All: Yes, we believe. *Or:* Yes, we believe in God, who...

Do you believe in Jesus, who calms the storms of our lives?

All: Yes, we believe. *Or:* Yes, we believe in Jesus, who...

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who strengthens our faith so that we can find peace with God?

All: Yes, we believe. *Or:* Yes, we believe in the Holy Spirit, who...

Substitutions / Additional Notes:

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Presider: We want for ourselves and for others to find God’s peace, and so we offer these prayers. (After the children have offered their prayers, you might also add prayers based on the scripture texts. For example:)

+ For the people of all nations, that we may not be afraid to seek God’s presence in the gentleness of a breeze, we pray.

All: Gentle God, hear our prayer.

+ For all our churches, that we may have the faith to reach out to Jesus for all our needs, we pray.

All: Gentle God, hear our prayer.

+ For our families, friends, and neighbors, that we may know the peace of God through the presence of Jesus, we pray.

All: Gentle God, hear our prayer.

Substitutions / Additional Notes:

CLOSING PRAYER

Presider: God of peace, we thank you for sending Jesus to us so that we might know the gentleness of your love for us. May we learn to seek you in the quiet of our hearts and to bring your peace to others in our world. We pray in the name of Jesus, who brings your love to us.

All: Amen.

Substitutions / Additional Notes:

NOTE: Arrange to have the *Sunday Scripture Leaflets* given to the children as they are leaving Mass. Encourage the children and parents to use these leaflets and the *Light of the World, Our Family Spiritual Life Journal* throughout the week.

**NINETEENTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

YEAR A

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Lord, you are the God
of power and gentleness.
Open our eyes to find you
in the ordinary things of life:
in the love of our parents,
in the happiness of friends,
in the goodness of this world
in which we live.
And when things
do not go so well,
may we believe
that you are with us always
to support and care for us.
We pray for this
through Christ, our Lord.

FOCUS OF THE READINGS:

The focus of our readings is the presence of God in the calming of the storm.

Elijah finds God, not in the storm, earthquake or fire, but in the quiet, gentle stilling of the storm.

The disciples, frightened by the storm, fail to recognize Jesus walking on the water. It is in the stilling of the storm that they recognize him and praise him.

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a

This is a reading from the first book of Kings.

When the prophet Elijah heard
that someone wanted to kill him,
he went to Mount Horeb, the mountain of God,
and stayed in a cave.
God came to Elijah and said,

“Go out and stand
in front of the cave to meet me.”

Then there was a powerful, strong wind
that split the mountain
and broke the rocks into little pieces.
But God was not in the wind.
After the wind, there was an earthquake,
but God was not in the earthquake.
And after the earthquake, there was a fire,
but God was not in the fire.
After the fire, there was a gentle breeze
like a quiet whisper.
And when Elijah heard it,
he covered his face with a scarf
and stood at the door of the cave to meet God.

The Word of the Lord.

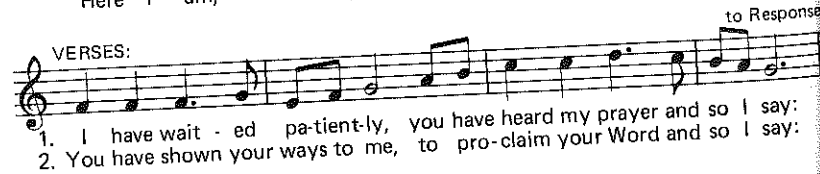
RESPONSE: Psalm 40

RESPONSE:



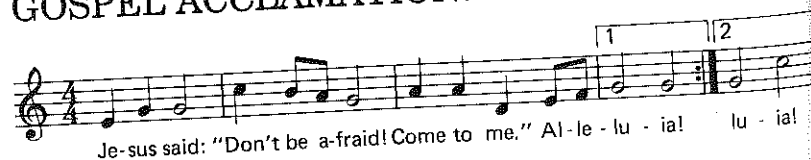
“Here I am, O my God, I come to do your will.”

VERSES:



1. I have wait - ed pa-tient-ly, you have heard my prayer and so I say:
2. You have shown your ways to me, to pro-claim your Word and so I say:

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:



Je-sus said: “Don’t be a-fraid! Come to me.” Al-le - lu - ia! lu - ia!

GOSPEL: Matthew 14:22-33

This is a reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

After Jesus had given the bread to the crowd of people, and everyone had eaten all they wanted, Jesus told the disciples to sail the boat to the other side of the lake. Then he went up into the mountains to pray, and he stayed there alone until late into the night.

By this time, the disciples were already out in the middle of the lake, and their boat was being tossed about by a strong wind. During the night, Jesus came walking across the water toward the boat, but when the disciples saw him walking on the water, they were terrified, and they screamed,

"It's a ghost!"

Jesus said,

"Don't be afraid! It is I!"

Peter said to Jesus,

"Lord, if it's really you, tell me to walk to you across the water."

Jesus said,

"Come on, Peter!"

So Peter got out of the boat and started walking toward Jesus. But while he was walking on the water, he saw the waves and the wind, and he became so frightened that he started sinking into the water. And he cried out,

"Lord, save me!"

Jesus reached out, caught hold of Peter's hand, and said,

"Peter, you have so little faith! Why didn't you believe?"

When Jesus and Peter got into the boat, the wind stopped.

The other disciples said to Jesus,

"Truly, you are the Son of God."

The Gospel of the Lord.

REFLECTING ON THE READINGS WITH CHILDREN:

Help the children visualize and imagine the Gospel scene:

- the darkness of the night,
- the storm, waves, wind,
- the disciples in a boat being tossed about,
- their fear, which is quite natural.

Next help them recall what happened.

- Where was Jesus before he walked on the water?
- What time was it when Jesus began to walk toward the boat?
- What do you think the disciples were doing in the lake in the middle of the night?
- What did the disciples think when they saw someone walking on the water?
- What did Jesus say? What did Peter say?
- Then what happened?
- Why did Peter begin to sink?
- What did Jesus do and say when Peter cried out, "Lord, save me"?
- Then what happened?

Something changed between the beginning of the story and the end. What changed? Why?

What does this story tell us about Jesus? What does he want us to know from this story?

The children should leave knowing that we all have "storms" in life, we all have fears, and Jesus wants us to have faith in him; he will always take us by the hand and help us.