

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

I HAVE NEVER been called to go and stand on a mountain, like Elijah was. I have never been invited to walk to Jesus on water, like Peter was. I got a job offer – a summer job, teaching basic reading and math in a men’s prison. Everything about this was scary, but it was my only job offer and I needed the money. Like Peter, I cried out, “Lord, save me.” Knowing that God was with me, I broke through the fear, got the job and that wonderful prison experience has coloured my life to this day.

We have all taken steps out in faith. In scary moments, when we are faced with a life-changing, faith-testing decision – the new job, the new

relationship, the new life path – faith in God is all we have. Our faith emboldens us to call out to the One who says, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.” Things might not always turn out the way we want them to, but God remains with us to see us through it.

In today’s liturgy, we celebrate God’s promise of presence: in each other, in the Word, in the sacrament and in the world we are called to serve. Let us give thanks for God’s presence and for our calling, as we step forth in faith to answer that call.

*Margaret Bick
Toronto, ON*

SUNDAY AUGUST 9

Roman Missal p. 455; Sunday Lectionary p. 494

Entrance Antiphon (Cf. Psalm 73.20, 19, 22, 23)

Look to your covenant, O Lord, and forget not the life of your poor ones for ever. Arise, O God, and defend your cause, and forget not the cries of those who seek you.

Introductory Rites (p. 5)

Collect

Almighty ever-living God, whom, taught by the Holy Spirit, we dare to call our Father, bring, we pray, to perfection in our hearts the spirit of adoption as your sons and daughters, that we may merit to enter into the inheritance which you have promised. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Reading (1 Kings 19.9, 11-13) —————

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he came to a cave, and spent the night there. Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, “Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.”

Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence.

When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 85)

Show us your steadfast love, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation.

R. Show us your steadfast love, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation.

Let me hear what God the Lord will · speak,
for he will speak peace to his · **people**.
Surely his salvation is at hand for those who · **fear_him**,
that his glory may dwell · **in_our** land. *R.*

Steadfast love and faithfulness will · **meet**;
righteousness and peace will · **kiss_each_other**.
Faithfulness will spring up from the · **ground**,
and righteousness will look down · **from_the** sky. *R.*

The Lord will give what is · **good**,
and our land will yield its · **increase**.
Righteousness will go be-**fore_him**,
and will make a path · **for_his** steps. *R.*

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Second Reading (Romans 9.1-5) —————

Brothers and sisters: I am speaking the truth in Christ. I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit. I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart.

For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. They are children of Israel, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Christ, who is over all, God be blessed forever. Amen.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation (Psalm 130.5)

Alleluia. Alleluia. I wait for the Lord; I hope in his word. **Alleluia.**

Gospel (Matthew 14.22-33) —————

The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Immediately after feeding the crowd with the five loaves and two fish, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray.

When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them.

And early in the morning Jesus came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear.

But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”

Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” Jesus said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!”

Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Profession of Faith (p. 8)

Prayer of the Faithful

The following intentions are suggestions only. There are more suggestions at www.livingwithchrist.ca

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For the Church, faithful and steadfast sign of the love and trust between God and humanity, we pray to the Lord: R.

For world leaders, called to be just and caring stewards of the world’s material wealth, we pray to the Lord: R.

For the poor, and all who search in hope for relief from their troubles, we pray to the Lord: R.

For this parish community, striving to live as God’s holy people, we pray to the Lord: R.

SUNDAY AUGUST 9

Preparation of the Gifts (p. 10)

Prayer over the Offerings

Be pleased, O Lord, to accept the offerings of your Church, for in your mercy you have given them to be offered and by your power you transform them into the mystery of our salvation. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Preface (*Sundays in Ordinary Time, p. 11*)

Communion Antiphon (*Psalm 147.12, 14*)

O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord, who gives you your fill of finest wheat.

or

(Cf. John 6.51)

The bread that I will give, says the Lord, is my flesh for the life of the world.

Prayer after Communion

May the communion in your Sacrament that we have consumed, save us, O Lord, and confirm us in the light of your truth. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing and Dismissal (p. 30)