

At this time of year, the forces of nature can buffet us from every side. Drought and forest fires, thunderstorms and floods, tornadoes, and hurricanes— anything is possible. If we are in a vulnerable position—in a small boat at sea, for example—we can find ourselves in grave danger. Today we see Jesus calmly approach the disciples during a storm as their boat is tossed about by the wind and waves. As we act to keep ourselves and our loved ones safe this season, let us trust in the Lord, who comes to strengthen and comfort us in times of danger.

As we gather let us begin our service by professing what we believe.

*Profession of Faith* p. 110

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (bow as we say) and by the Holy Spirit he was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*Introductory Rite:*

*Greeting:*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Blessed be God forever. **Blessed be God forever.**

*Penitential Rite:* p. 8

My brothers and sisters, to prepare ourselves for this celebration, let us call to mind our sins.

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen**

*Opening Prayer:*

Almighty and 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 and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*Liturgy of the Word:*

*First Reading* p. 24

A reading from the Book of First Kings

1 Kings 19:9A, 11-13A

At the mountain of God, Horeb, Elijah came to a cave where he took shelter. Then the LORD said to him, “Go outside and stand on the mountain before the LORD; the LORD will be passing by.” A strong and heavy wind was rending the mountains and crushing rocks before the LORD—but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an

earthquake—but the LORD was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake there was fire—but the LORD was not in the fire. After the fire there was a tiny whispering sound. When he heard this, Elijah hid his face in his cloak and went and stood at the entrance of the cave.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

Responsorial Song

*Psalm 85 :9,10,11-12,13-14*

R/. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

**R/. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.**

I will hear what God proclaims; the LORD — for he proclaims peace. Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him,  
glory dwelling in our land. **R/.**

Kindness and truth shall meet; justice and peace shall kiss. Truth shall spring out of the earth, and justice shall look down from heaven. **R/.**

The LORD himself will give his benefits; our land shall yield its increase. Justice shall walk before him, and prepare the way of his steps .**R/.**

Second Reading p.26

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

*Romans 9: 1-5*

Brothers and sisters: I speak the truth in Christ, I do not lie; my conscience joins with the Holy Spirit in bearing me witness that I have great sorrow and constant 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 Israelites; theirs the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; theirs the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Gospel p.26

*Matthew 14:22-33*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

**Glory to you, Lord**

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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Reflection on the Word:**

• Last month we heard the parable of the sower. Because the sower threw seed around with no regard to where it fell, much of it failed to produce fruit. As Jesus revealed later, he is the sower and the seed is the good news of the kingdom. Today we see a portrayal of Peter that is not so flattering, but remember that when Jesus called him in the first days of his mission, Peter immediately dropped his nets and followed. Peter is like the seed that fell on rocky ground. Recall Jesus said, “Some fell on rocky ground . . . It sprang up at once . . . [but] withered for lack of roots” (Matthew 13:5–6). On rocky ground, on rocky waters, Peter’s faith at this point is not well-anchored. But eventually the extravagance of the sower will be rewarded. Not this night, not even on that later night before the cock crowed, but in the end Peter’s faith produces fruit, many hundredfold.

- Peter is honestly trying to show faith. In daring Jesus to call him out of the boat and onto the water, he is not trying to prove Jesus wrong as some Pharisees consistently tried to do. He truly believes in Jesus’ power. But he becomes frightened. On the night he denied Jesus three times, he again became frightened. Whether of drowning or of being crucified, Peter’s fears are obstacles to his faith. Only after his faith is strengthened by Jesus’ victory over death and the gift of the Holy Spirit does Peter publicly testify immediately and courageously to his faith in the Son of God. His testimony of the need for repentance and forgiveness is especially apt.
- Our lives can be like a boat tossed about by the waves, leaving us fearful and exhausted. But recall Jesus’ final words to those he loved: “I am with you always” (Matthew 28:20). Can we see Jesus coming to us on the rough seas, reassuring us and staying with us? Can we trust in the One who overcame death itself to guide us through the rough waters of our life?

**Question of the Week**

Who can I accompany on their journey through stormy waters? How can I reassure them and assist them?

**Prayer of the Faithful:**

Trusting the Lord to come meet us in our turmoil, as he did when his disciples were tossed about on a raging sea, let us ask for God’s presence in our lives and in the lives of all those in need.

- For the Church, that we imitate Christ in reaching out to comfort and assist all those who are struggling to weather the storms in their lives, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For all those in elected office, that they may reassure us during tumultuous times with wisdom, integrity, and benevolence, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- That we and all our loved ones may be kept safe from the effects of the storms of summer, and that we may work to reduce their frequency and severity, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For all those without homes, from refugees fleeing trauma in their native land to those who cannot afford a place to live, that they may be welcomed and kept safe wherever they are, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For this parish community, that we may be a shelter from the storms in people’s lives, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For what else should we pray?... Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

God of power and mercy, grant us the strength to overcome our difficulties and forgiveness to overcome our failures

as you hear these prayers we make through the One who will walk on water to calm and comfort us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Communion Rite

The Lord's Prayer: p. 142

Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us.

**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.**

Rite of Peace:

The sign of peace outwardly expresses a deep spiritual reality; through this sign we acknowledge Christ's presence in each other and share the peace we have received from Him. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

Communion:

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

The body of Christ. **Amen.**

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.**

Concluding Rite:

Final Blessing:

May the Lord bless us,  protect us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**  
Go in the peace of Christ! **Thanks be to God.**