



Liturgy Cycle A

# Nineteenth Sunday Of The Year

## Walking On Water

### **Introduction**

At times storms of one kind or another blow up and threaten not only our peace and our security, but our every life. At such moments we know we cannot save ourselves. Only God can save us and restore calm to our troubled lives. But we must learn to turn to God, not just in times of difficulty, but at all times.

### **First reading (1Kings19: 9.11-13)**

The prophet Elijah is fleeing for his life. When all seems lost, he hears the voice of God, not in a mighty wind or earthquake, but in a gentle breeze.

### **Second Reading (Romans 9:1-5)**

St Paul tells us about the sorrow and anguish he suffers because his fellow Jews refused to accept Christ as the Messiah.

### **Gospel (Matthew 14:22-33)**

Caught in the middle of high winds and rough seas, at the word of Jesus, Peter begins to walk on the water.

### **Prayer of the faithful**

Christ promised that he would be with us in his Church all days until the end of time. He is with us now. Let us place our prayers before him with confidence.

**R: Reach out your hand and save us.**

**For all Christians: that when they are faced with difficulties they reach out for the help of Christ. We pray to the Lord.**

**R: Reach out your hand and save us.**

**For all those in positions of power: that when they are in danger of sinking into the murky waters of dishonesty and corruption, Christ may inspire and uphold them. We pray to the Lord.**

**R: Reach out your hand and save us.**



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**For those who have no faith, and who consequently are at the mercy of the cold winds of anguish and despair. We pray to the Lord.**

**R: Reach out your hand and save us.**

**That realizing how little our faith is, we may rely totally on Christ who is never more than an arm's length away from us. We pray to the Lord.**

**R: Reach out your hand and save us.**

### **Communion Reflection**

**There was once a sea captain  
who in his retirement skippered a boat  
taking day trippers to the Shetland Islands.  
On one trip the boat was full of young people.  
These laughed at the old captain  
when they saw him saying a prayer before setting out,  
for the day was fine and the sea calm.**

**But when out at sea a storm suddenly blew up,  
and the boat began to pitch violently,  
the terrified passengers came to the captain  
and asked him to join them in prayer.**

**But he replied:**

**'I say my prayers when it is calm.  
When it's rough, I attend to my ship'.**

**There is a lesson here for us.  
If we cannot or will not seek God  
in the quiet moments of our lives,  
we are not likely to find him when trouble strikes.  
We more likely to panic.**

**But if we have learnt to seek him  
and to trust him in the quiet moments,  
then most certainly we will find him  
when the going gets rough.**