

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

AUGUST 9, 2020



**PETER SAID TO JESUS,
“LORD, IF IT IS YOU,
COMMAND ME TO COME
TO YOU ON THE WATER.”**

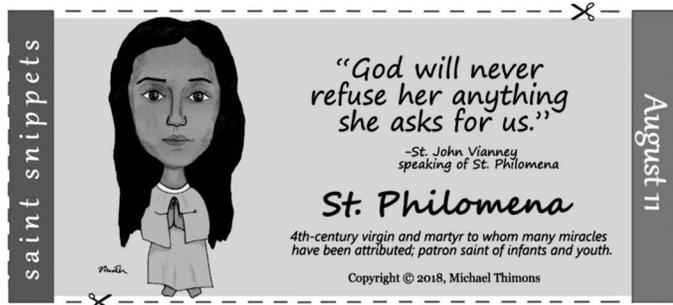
MATTHEW 14:28

Saint Teresa Benedicta Of The Cross

(EDITH STEIN) (1891-1942)

August 9

“Come,” Edith gently whispered, taking her sister Rosa’s hand, “let us go for our people!” These were Edith Stein’s last words as the Nazis, enraged at the Dutch bishops’ condemnation of their genocide, took into custody all Catholic converts from Judaism. Born Jewish, but non-practicing from her teens, Edith’s search for truth led to a doctorate in philosophy, a brilliant career as professor and author and, finally, to the Autobiography of Saint Teresa of Ávila, which she read in one sitting, then declared, “That is the Truth!” Baptized on January 1, 1922, observed then as the feast of Jesus’ initiation into the covenant of Abraham, confirmed on February 2, the feast of Jesus’ Presentation in the Temple, Edith entered the cloistered Carmelites in Cologne, transferring to a convent in Holland when she realized that, because of the Nazi persecution of the Jews, her presence could imperil the safety of the other nuns. She died in the gas chambers of Auschwitz as a daughter of Israel and of the Church.
—Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



Sing

Alas for those who never sing, but die with their music within them.

—Oliver Wendell Holmes

The Presence Of God

After the miracle of Jesus walking on water, the disciples exclaimed, “Truly, you are the Son of God” (Matthew 14:33). Most Christians will probably never experience such a dramatic miracle. Like Elijah, we await the manifestation of God in other moments. Perhaps the biggest challenge for the believer is to be constantly attuned to the possible presence of God in the everyday events of life. This is a stance that takes some people years to develop. Others seem to find the Lord easily in the simple things. As the week unfolds, let us look for the presence of God in the little things around us. Perhaps, like Elijah, we will be surprised at what we find. And, like the disciples, we can add our voice to the confession, “Truly you are the Son of God.”
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Readings for the Week

Monday:	2 Cor 9:6-10; Ps 112:1-2, 5-9; Jn 12:24-26
Tuesday:	Ez 2:8 — 3:4; Ps 119:14, 24, 72, 103, 111,131; Mt 18:1-5, 10, 12-14
Wednesday:	Ez 9:1-7; 10:18-22; Ps 113:1-6; Mt 18:15-20
Thursday:	Ez 12:1-12; Ps 78:56-59, 61-62; Mt 18:21 — 19:1
Friday:	Ez 16:1-15, 60, 63 [59-63]; Is 12:2-3, 4bcd-6; Mt 19:3-12
Saturday:	Vigil: 1 Chr 15:3-4, 15-16; 16:1-2; Ps 132:6-7, 9-10, 13-14; 1 Cor 15:54b-57; Lk 11:27-28 Day: Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Ps 45:10-12, 16; 1 Cor 15:20-27; Lk 1:39-56
Sunday:	Is 56:1, 6-7; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Rom 11:13-15, 29-32; Mt 15:21-28

Saints and Special Observances

Sunday:	Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time; Nagasaki Memorial Day
Monday:	St. Lawrence
Tuesday:	St. Clare
Wednesday:	St. Jane Frances de Chantal
Thursday:	Ss. Pontian and Hippolytus
Friday:	St. Maximilian Kolbe
Saturday:	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

God’s Image

Nature has perfections in order to show that she is the image of God, and defects to show that she is only God’s image.

—Blaise Pascal

Today’s Readings

First Reading — The LORD said to Elijah: “Stand on the mountain; the LORD will be passing by”

(1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a).

Psalm — Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation (Psalm 85).

Second Reading — To the Israelites belong the covenants, the law, and the patriarchs; and from them comes the Christ (Romans 9:1-5).

Gospel — As Jesus walked on the sea, the disciples were terrified (Matthew 14:22-33).

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Nineteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time August 9, 2020

**Truth shall spring out of the earth,
And justice shall look down from heaven.**

—Psalm 85:12

Treasures From Our Tradition

In many church buildings constructed in the early twentieth century, there is a window or statue of Pope St. Pius X. Often, these windows were purchased with coins collected by grateful children, since in 1910 a decree admitted much younger children to First Communion. Before then, only teenagers were customarily confirmed and then admitted to the Eucharist. What we often think is ancient practice in fact sometimes has fairly shallow roots, in this case only ten decades. For centuries, Communion had marked the end of formal religious education, but a hundred years ago, Pius X located it at the point at which a child could express a desire for the sacrament and receive it with understanding. In 1917 a new code of canon law determined that age to be about seven, and this practice was observed almost everywhere until the beginning of the Second Vatican Council forty years ago.

In a growing number of dioceses, recent practice has restored the sacramental order that Pius X's generous decree upset, and increasingly confirmation is celebrated before First Communion. But the gift Pius gave to the children of the Roman Church remains firm: everywhere we admit children to the Lord's table. Where the traditional order has been restored, seven-year-old children are confirmed before First Communion.

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

How do we encounter God in the midst of the trials and storms of our lives? Our readings help us reflect upon God's presence with us in difficult times. We hear of the prophet Elijah, who had just boldly demonstrated God's power, and is now terrified as he flees for his life, desperately seeking God's presence. We hear of Peter, after briefly walking on water during the storm, sinking fast as fear overwhelms him. At times our fears, sadness, or fatigue might severely test even our strongest desires to care for others and to serve God. Perhaps these are the moments when, as we encounter our weakness, we may open ourselves more deeply to God's strength. Often with difficulty, and perhaps over a lifetime, we can learn to depend on God, who always extends a loving hand toward us, especially during the storms of our lives.

A "Little" Faith

In Matthew's Gospel, Peter often serves as a representative of Jesus' other disciples, and of all who strive to follow Jesus. When Peter desires to imitate Jesus by walking on the water in the middle of the storm, maybe wishing to show how strong his faith is, he encounters his own limitations and his need to be rescued by Jesus. Jesus then says to Peter, with tenderness as well as with challenge, "O you of little faith." Jesus accepted the fragile and limited faith of Peter and the other disciples and loved them unconditionally.

The early church identified with Peter, as people with a "little" faith. Their faith was not fully mature, or as

extraordinary as others' faith might seem to be. But they knew that their faith, however small or imperfect, was real and true. We might remember that our own "little" faith is cherished by God. God loves us as we are, and always seeks to form us toward a fully mature Christian life of faith.

Grounded In God's Faithfulness

Today's passage from Saint Paul's letter to the Roman begins an extended reflection, in Chapters 9–11, of Paul's coming to terms with the mixed but generally negative reception of his fellow Jews toward his proclamation of Christ. He was concerned for the Jewish people certainly, but also for the members of the early church, who were both Jew and Gentile. His primary concern was that their Christian faith should always be grounded in God's faithfulness. So Paul rejected any notion that God somehow had abandoned Israel or God's covenant with them.

As Catholic teaching confirms, especially in the Second Vatican Council, the Church shares with the Jewish people in the tradition of God's faithfulness. We are to acknowledge and repent of the Church's participation and complicity in the darkness of anti-Semitism, both in the past and today. We pray continually with and for the Jewish people as our sisters and brothers in faith.

Today's Readings: 1 Kgs 19:9a, 11–13a; Ps 85:9, 10, 11–12, 13–14; Rom 9:1–5; Mt 14:22–33

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Sunday Readings
August 9, 2020
Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reading 1

1 Kgs 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.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 85:9, 10, 11–12, 13–14

R. (8) 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. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

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

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

Reading 2

Rom 9:1–5

Brothers and sisters: I speak the truth in Christ, I do not lie; my conscience joins with the Holy Spirit in

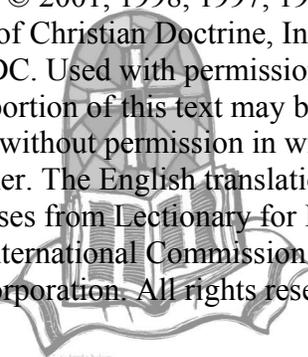
bearing me witness that I have great sorrow and constant anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. They are Israelites; theirs the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, 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.

Gospel

Mt 14:22–33

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.”

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Prayer of the Faithful

**God is with us even in the storms of our lives.
Let us now lift up our hearts and voices to God
in prayer for all our sisters and brothers in need.**

For the safety of Christians everywhere, especially
in North Korea, Somalia, Yemen, and Afghanistan,
let us pray to the Lord.

For an end to violence among nations, and for a
commitment to true peace without prejudice,
let us pray to the Lord.

For all those who are suffering and recovering from storms,
earthquakes, and other natural disasters,
[especially in _____],
let us pray to the Lord.

For those who struggle to discern the movement of God
in their lives, that they may find and open door of
welcome in our parish community,
let us pray to the Lord.

For those whose lives are in turmoil, especially those who
have been affected by illness or economic loss due to the
pandemic, that they may be able to turn to the Lord,
let us pray to the Lord.

For all those who are sick, for all who suffer from COVID-19,
and for all who have died, especially N., N., and N.,
let us pray to the Lord.

For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts; f
or all our intentions spoken and unspoken,
let us pray to the Lord.

O God of peace,
hear these our prayers
and grant your peace to our world.
We ask this in the name of Jesus our Lord.

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Letters from Heaven



Start with the letter in the shaded square. Draw a path from letter to letter to complete the Biblical statement. Move one square at a time, up, down, right, left and diagonally until all letters are used once. Ignore any black squares.

Jesus said, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will ..."

	U	B	
O	E	E	P
Y	O	O	N
	T	D	E

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Excerpt from the NAB © 2010, 1991, 1970, CCD

B _ _ _ _ _ .

Answer: *we opened to you*



A Boat That Floats

- Using any materials around your home, assist your child in making a sailboat. Possible items may include foil, toothpicks, empty containers, paper, tape, straws, etc.
- Put the boat in a shallow tub of water that has been tinted blue with food coloring.
- Encourage your child to blow the boat across the "sea" using his/her own breath or blowing through a straw.

GOD'S WORD FOR CHILDREN!

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

The disciples were in their boat during a terrible storm. Jesus walked on the water toward them.

1 Kgs 19:9, 11-13 Ps 85:9-14
Rom 9:1-5 Mt 14:22-33

Directions: Decode the letters to create words from Matthew's Gospel this week.

- aertw = _____
- klaws = _____
- toba = _____
- morts = _____

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