



Hosanna



Vol. 2

SUNDAY LITURGY

No. 43

06-08-2017

19TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Year A

INTRODUCTION

Jesus walked on the sea. It was a good day for Peter to experience the power of Jesus. He wished to walk on the water. Jesus permitted him to do as he wished. Peter walked on the water without any problem as long as he was focusing on Christ. Once he changed his focus from Christ to the sea, he began sinking and started to cry for fear.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

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.

(Ps 73:20,19,22,23)

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.

FIRST READING

the first reading explains the experience of Prophet Elijah. He

was in search of God and feared his life. He even cursed himself. Finally, he reaches the mount of the Lord to experience God. He did not find God in the windstorm, earthquake, and fire. He heard God in a gentle breeze.

A reading from the Book of Kings 19:9, 11-13

Elijah came to a cave and lodged there; and behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and he said to him, "Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the Lord." And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and broke in pieces the rocks 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 still small voice. And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

Responsorial Psalm (84)

R/ Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace. His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land.

R/ Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.

Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced. Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven.

R/ Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.

The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit. Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps.

R/ Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.

SECOND READING

In the second reading, the author of the letter to the Romans recalls the glorious election of Israel. The author also pictures the wonderful deeds of God and covenant for the welfare of the chosen race of God.

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Romans 9:1-5

I am speaking the truth in Christ, I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit, that 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 brethren, my kinsmen by race. They are Israelites, and to them belong the sonship, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; to them belong the patriarchs, and of their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed for ever. Amen.

ALLELUIA Lk 19:38

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Blessings on the King who comes, in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens!

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Matthew 14:22-33

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat by this time was many furlongs distant from the land, beaten by the waves; for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking 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 for fear. But immediately he spoke to them, saying, "Take heart, it is I; have no fear."

And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, bid me come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus; but when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, "O man of little faith, why did you doubt?"

And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

HOMILY

NICENE CREED

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant: Dear Brethren, we are battered with wants and needs. In this struggle, we often fail to keep the faith in the Lord. He alone can be the remedy for all our needs. Therefore, let us put forth our needs and wants before the Lord.

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER

1. Lord bless our Pope Francis, Archbishop Bernard Moras, all the bishops, priests and religious. Grant them the assistance of the Spirit to lead the church to God. *Let us pray.*

2. Lord, we pray for all those who are in the prison that they may repent for the crime that they have committed and receive the mercy of God and all those who are in the prison pleading innocence may receive consolation and mercy and be released at the earliest, *Let us pray.*

3. Lord, bless those who suffer with terminus illness to find comfort in your presence. Grant them speedy recovery. *Let us pray.*

4. Lord, have mercy on all the departed souls. Forgive their sins to find rest in you. *Let us pray.*

Celebrant: Lord, you promised us your presence and commanded not to be afraid. Grant us the grace to have unshakable faith in you. Help us to overcome our fear by our faith. Lead us to become the witnesses of our faith in you and walk courageously. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

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.

PREFACE VI (Ordinary)

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For in you we live and move and have our being, and while in this body we not only experience the daily effects of your care, but even now possess the pledge of life eternal.

For, having received the first fruits of the Spirit, through whom you raised up Jesus from the dead, we hope for an everlasting share in the Paschal Mystery.

And so, with all the Angels, we praise you, as in joyful celebration we acclaim:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord, who gives you your fill of finest wheat. (*Ps147:12, 14*)

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.

REFLECTION

Jesus calmed the disturbed sea. The episode happened after he had fed thousands of people. The people of the time had the messianic expectation. They all expected the messiah to be their political leader to deliver them from the clutches of the Roman Empire. They were oppressed by these authoritative and autocratic rule. They hated the Roman authorities. Moses delivered them from Egypt in the past. Therefore, they thought Messiah will deliver them once again from the clutches of the Romans. They identified Jesus to be their deliverer. They could not think anything more than the material world because of their sufferings. Jesus multiplied the bread and fed thousands of people. The people in turn wanted to make him a king. But Jesus refused to accept the pomp of the people. Because, it was not the will of God and it was not his mission. Withdrawing from the people, Jesus always spent time in

solitude and silence. He spent time alone with God. Frequently, Jesus withdrew from the people for this reason. Jesus was busy always with his ministry. He needed time to be alone with God to draw strength to continue his mission. When he withdrew himself from the crowd, Jesus went to the mountain to pray. When he came back, the disciples were already in the sea doing what Jesus wanted them to do. While they were at the sea, there arose a storm in the sea. The storm arose while they were working. They were panic. Jesus was seeing all that happened. He began to walk on the sea towards the disciples. Jesus reached them late. Jesus' presence and their struggle in the sea revealed them at least two things in life. One, a man may not be relying on his strength alone. Human strength can fail utterly. Second, placing the trust and confidence in the Lord draws strength to come out of bad or life threatening situations. God loves and cares each and every one who places his trust in the lord. The tough situations in life, not only teach us life but also teach the various ways and means to face the struggles of life. The disciples were struggling with the disturbed sea. They were tired because they struggled/fought with their physical strength. Even, their minds did not work well as they were exhausted. Their eyes were dimmed. All of a sudden, they saw someone

walking on the sea. They did not expect this to happen. When a man is filled with fear, even a rope look like a snake. The thing does not change but the fear within man forces him to think so. They looked at Jesus and thought it was a ghost. Jesus revealed himself and asked them to be courageous. Peter took a chance to join Jesus. Peter thought he was dying and his fear for death did not allow him to think anything but plead Jesus to save him. Jesus needed his request and commanded him to walk on the water. Jesus called him with his arms stretched. Peter started walking on the water focusing his eyes on Jesus. Once, he took his sight off on Jesus and looked at the storm, he was filled with fear for life and began sinking. He stood out of focus and pleaded for salvation. Jesus had to rebuke Peter of losing his faith in Jesus. On that day, Peter understood Jesus' power over the nature. More than understanding the power of Jesus, both Peter and the other disciples understood that taking off the focus on Jesus, may cause more dangers. Today, a disciple of Jesus is not exempted from the storms of life. But focusing on Jesus and walking forward will yield strength from Jesus to defeat the struggles of life.

- Rev. Fr. Arockiaswamy Sebastian

Imprimatur

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Published by:

Archdiocesan Liturgical Commission

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