

Holy Spirit uses the “Sunday Book of Readings, The Lectionary Adapted for Children” and the Leader Guide to share the Liturgical readings with our children. This week you will find our readings for reflection are from Year A.

Children’s Liturgy of the Word Reflection – Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Psalm 40

Response: “Here I am, O my God; I come to do your will.”

Today’s readings focus on the presence of God in the calming of the storm.

- **Elijah finds God, in the quiet, gentle calming of the storm.**
- **The disciples are frightened by the storm and do not recognize Jesus. It is in the calming of the storm that they recognize Jesus and praise him.**

Summarizing the readings for the children:

First Reading: 1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a (*This is a reading from the first book of Kings.*)

In today’s first reading, Elijah heard that someone wanted to kill him. So, he goes off and hides in a cave on a mountain. The mountain is called Mount Horeb, the mountain of God. While he was staying in the cave God came to him and said, “Go out and stand in front of the cave to meet me.” Then there was a strong wind and God was not there. Next there was an earthquake and God was not there. After that, a fire and God was not there. Finally, there was a gentle breeze and Elijah stood in the door of the cave to meet God.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 14:22-33 (*This is a reading from the Gospel of Matthew.*)

In the Gospel reading today we hear the story of Jesus walking on water. After Jesus has fed the people, he tells the disciples to sail the boat across the lake. Jesus remains alone and goes up into the mountains to pray. As the disciples are sailing across the lake a strong wind comes up and begins to toss them about. Soon Jesus comes walking across the water. But the disciples do not recognize him and think it is a ghost. They are afraid and begin to scream. Jesus tells them not to be afraid that it is him. Peter says to Jesus, “Lord if it is really you, tell me to walk to you across the water.” So, Jesus tells him to walk to him. As Peter is walking toward Jesus, he becomes afraid and begins to sink. Peter cries out and Jesus saves him. “Peter, you have so little faith! Why didn’t you believe? They both got into the boat. The other disciples said, “Truly, you are the Son of God.”

Helping the Children to Reflect:

Our reflection today is meant to help the children see that we all have “storms” in our lives. All of us have times when we are afraid. Like Elijah and the disciples, God is always with us. Jesus wants us to have faith in him, he will always take us by the hand and help us.

Reflection Questions for the Children:

- Have the children close their eyes and imagine the Gospel scene:
 1. Is the night dark?
 2. Can you hear the storm, waves, wind?
 3. Can you feel the disciples in the boat being tossed around?
 4. Can you understand why they would be afraid?
- Now have them tell you what happened next.
 1. Where was Jesus before he walked on the water?
 2. What did the disciples think they saw walking on the water?
 3. What did Jesus say to them?
 4. What did Peter ask Jesus?
 5. What happened to Peter when he began to walk toward Jesus on the water?
Why?
 6. What did the disciples say to Jesus when they were all in the boat together?
- What does this story tell us about Jesus?
- What can we do when we have storms (times when we are afraid) in our lives?

“Jesus wants us to have faith in him, he will always take us by the hand.”