



### Matthew 14:22-33

**22 Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. 23 After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, 24 while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. 25 In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, 26 and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost,' they said, and cried out in fear. 27 But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' 28 It was Peter who answered. 'Lord,' he said, 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 29 'Come,' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, 30 but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. 31 Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said, 'why did you doubt?' 32 And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. 33 The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'**

Other readings: 1 Kings 19:9,11-13 Psalm 84 (85) Romans 9:1-5

Three of the gospel writers, Matthew, Mark and John, give us an account of Jesus walking on the water. It is an extraordinary miracle, which seems to be a manifestation of the power of Jesus. The Old Testament reading chosen to accompany this gospel is the revelation of God to Elijah in the 'sound of a gentle breeze', the 'still, small voice'. The evangelists place the story of the walking on the water directly after the multiplication of the loaves. Just as the loaves miracle reminds us of the provision of manna in the desert, the walking on the sea recalls God's power over the sea at the Exodus.

Matthew's account of the miracle has two special features. When he attempts to walk on the water, Peter is overcome with doubt and is upheld by Jesus. The gospel in which Peter is entrusted with authority also testifies to his vulnerability. In Matthew's version too the story ends with a declaration of faith by the disciples. While in Mark's account they remain confused and questioning, here they declare Jesus to be 'the Son of God'. Matthew is surely indicating how Christians should understand this story.

In the reading from St Paul's Letter to the Romans Paul begins to speak about the situation of his Jewish brothers and sisters. He is profoundly grieved that they have not recognised Jesus as the promised Messiah. In the following sections of the letter (Romans 9-11) Paul will explore and explain what God's intentions are in relation to the chosen people.

*How do I react when my faith is tested by the storms of life?*

*Do I trust in the helping hand of the Lord when I am out of my depth?*

*We pray for confidence and serenity amid the trials of life.*

*We pray for the Jewish people that they may remain faithful to God's covenant.*