

AUGUST 13, 2023
ELEVENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



Even a little faith is enough.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 14:22-33	Jesus walks on water
Monday	1 Kings 19:9-18	The Lord appears to Elijah
Tuesday	Romans 10:5-15	Anyone can be saved
Wednesday	Luke 17:1-6	Sayings of Jesus
Thursday	Acts 15:6-21	The council at Jerusalem
Friday	Romans 12:1-8	The new life in Christ
Saturday	Psalms 85:8-13	Restoration of God's favor
Sunday	Matthew 15:10-28	A woman's faith

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He [Jesus] said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. Matthew 14:28-29 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, help us to trust in you during the difficult and scary times of life that we may still sing your praises through Jesus Christ, the one who calms our fears. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Nurturing God, you give what is good and bless our land with abundant food; for your goodness and mercy we thank you for this meal. Amen. (Psalm 85:12)

A Blessing to Give:

May God calm you when you are afraid and bless you with steadfast love.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK
Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Think or talk about a difficult time in your life.
- Who or what has helped you make it through a difficult time in your life?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 14:22-33.

Once again, Jesus is on the sea with his disciples. And, again, Jesus points out the disciples' fears and little faith as he did when he stilled a storm (Matthew 8:23-27). Just the night before, Jesus fed the 5,000 men plus more women and children. Don't they understand how powerful and caring Jesus is? How many of us would have the faith and courage of Peter to step out of a boat during a storm and onto dangerous and deep waters? Yes, Jesus calls it "little faith," but that little faith is still quite remarkable. When we are in the midst of a storm, a painful period in our lives that scares us, our lives are very fragile, needy, and weak. We often do not respond with great confidence and faith. No matter how little our faith is, it is enough because of Jesus who is Emmanuel, God with us. When life gets calm following a difficult time in our lives, at least then we are relieved—even joyful—and can say of Jesus, "Truly you are the Son of God" (Matthew 14:33).

Discuss: How does your faith help you when you face difficult situations?

Pray: **Merciful God, when we experience moments that scare us and make us long for stable ground to stand on, give us even a little faith to hope in you through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you serve others who are anxious or worried?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Jesus came to the disciples in the middle of the night and calmed their fears. Bedtime is a special opportunity to think, talk, listen, and pray for yourself and others. Take time to think or talk about your highs and lows at bedtime this week. Give thanks to God for your highs. For your lows, pray that Jesus will come and remain with you during the night and calm any "storms." Then pray the Lord's Prayer.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org