

**READINGS AND REFLECTION
FOR THE 19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

<http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/080920.cfm>

FIRST READING

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

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



The locality of Mt Horeb in the Sinai

The Word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Ps 85: 9-14*

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.

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.

LORD, LET US SEE YOUR KINDNESS, AND GRANT US YOUR SALVATION.

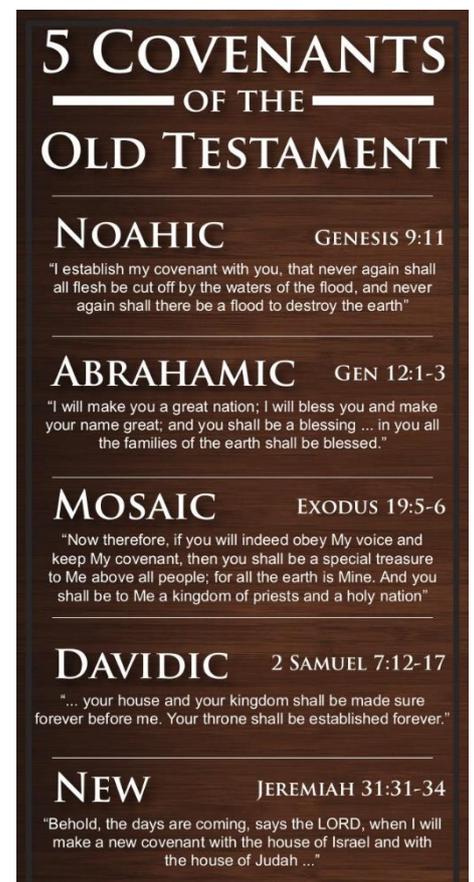
The LORD himself will give his benefits;
our land shall yield its increase.
Justice shall walk before him,
and prepare the way of his steps.
LORD, LET US SEE YOUR KINDNESS, AND GRANT US YOUR SALVATION.

SECOND READING

A READING FROM ST PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS 9:1-5

Brothers and sisters:
I speak the truth in Christ, I do not lie;
the Holy Spirit bears witness to my conscience
when I say that I have great sorrow and constant anguish in my heart.
I would gladly be placed under God's curse and be
separated from Christ for the good of my own people.
They are the descendants of Israel,
and they are God's chosen people.
God showed them his glory.
gave them the covenants, his law, the worship,
the promises and the patriarchs,
and from them, according to the flesh, is the Christ,
who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

I wait for the Lord. My soul waits for his word. Psalm 130:5

GOSPEL

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew 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.”



The Gospel of the Lord

REFLECTION

An invisible virus is causing enormous damage. Let us pray for and respond to victims wherever they may be. In the midst of it all, we need to look for the voice of God which may be “a tiny whispering sound”. Pope Francis and others have reflected on our living our Catholic Christian faith in this time.

LET’S FIND THE ROOTS OF OUR HAPPINESS.

Are we discerning what is really important in our lives and what is not essential? Do we need to review how we live our Christian faith? We may think the virus has exposed our vulnerability, though maybe we were already vulnerable before the outbreak but we were blind to it or had ignored it?

SOLIDARITY FOR FACING TRIALS

The crisis has shown us that our solidarity with others is critical. We are all connected: we may need to rediscover our interdependence with others.

As a local and global Church, we need deep reflection to review what we have taken for granted for a long time. Let us wisely consider the next steps in both our personal initiatives and our community’s mission. Let us learn about and pray and prepare for our Australian Church’s Plenary Council in 2021.

DO WE BELIEVE IN EASTER’S VICTORY OVER ALL FORMS OF DEATH?

Christians with Easter faith cannot remain paralyzed by the pandemic. The Lockdown may facilitate changes but true growth is possible only if we have genuinely grappled with issues – preferably collaboratively.

LOVE IS ALSO CONTAGIOUS.

The virus with its rampaging impact is certainly intimidating; however, love also is indomitable. Pope Francis spoke of gratitude for the heroic acts of altruism and dedication shown by frontline workers.

FASTING FROM THE EUCHARISTIC IS LESS NUTRITIOUS FOR US.

Our loss of our routine of public Masses challenged the sustainability of our personal prayer practices. The livestreaming of Mass were an “emergency measure” for which we were grateful. However, our embodied togetherness is a richer experience for us of the Body of Christ rather than just our being connected virtually. It makes us wonder about how many of the faithful, who have been isolated (pre-CoVid) from our faith communities in their homes or Homes for a long time, have been feeling – for a long time.....

Many of us may identify with Peter who lost the plot of faith as he walked towards Jesus on the water. May we be encouraged by the message of the scriptures to ‘trust God, be not afraid’. Let us do our part - such as it is - but nothing is impossible with God!