

PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

SUNDAY LITURGY



19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

13 August 2023 - Year A

“Command me to come to you over the water.”

Something to Think About

There is a saying, 'You'll never, never know unless you have a go!' This is the basis of trust. Fear can stop us from even trying to do things. Can you remember a time when fear of failure stopped you from doing something you really wanted to do. Have there been times you were able to trust and things worked very well.

The Story

This story is about trust. The disciples are on a boat in a bad storm. They are very scared, but Jesus comes walking on the water towards them. Jesus encourages Peter to walk to him, across the water. Peter starts to walk towards Jesus, but when he notices the wind and waves, he is afraid and starts sinking. Jesus saves Peter and calms the storm. Jesus says - 'Be not afraid!' This phrase occurs 366 times throughout the Bible. It is a message that Jesus wants us to hear and believe.

The Scriptures

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

14:22-33

Jesus made his disciples get into a boat and start back across the lake. But he stayed until he had sent the crowds away. Then he went up on a mountain where he could be alone and pray. Later that evening, he was still there.

By this time the boat was a long way from the shore. It was going against the wind and was being tossed around by the waves. A little while before morning, Jesus came walking on the water toward his disciples. When they saw him, they thought he was a ghost. They were terrified and started screaming.

At once Jesus said to them, "Don't worry! I am Jesus. Don't be afraid."

Peter replied, "Lord, if it is really you, tell me to come to you on the water."

"Come on!" Jesus said. Peter then got out of the boat and started walking on the water toward him. But when Peter saw how strong the wind was, he was afraid and started sinking. "Lord, save me!" he shouted.

Right away Jesus reached out his hand. He helped Peter up and said, "You surely don't have much faith. Why do you doubt?"

When Jesus and Peter got into the boat, the wind died down. The men in the boat worshipped Jesus and said, "You really are the Son of God!"

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Video

Watch the video: [Peter Walks on Water](#)



Group Discussion

Invite the children to share some of their concerns and fears. Ask them also to talk about the people in their lives who help them through these difficult times and what these 'storms' have taught them about themselves and about God. Sometimes it is really hard to keep believing. However Jesus tells us to trust him and he will look after us. Spend some quiet time in silent prayer thinking about the times it is difficult to trust, and asking Jesus for strength to keep believing.

Praying For Others

Leader: Let us pray now for the leaders of our Church, our world, for those in our community and for our own needs.

Reader 1: We pray for leaders who will lead our Church with courage and compassion. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 2: We pray for all who live in fear. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 3: We pray that we will be brave when times are difficult. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 4: We pray that will notice the needs of others and try to help them. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 5: We pray that we will always trust Jesus. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Invite the children to pray for their own special intentions.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving God, listen to the prayers we make in the name of Jesus.

All: Amen.

Prayer



Dear Jesus,
Help us not to worry about things,
but to trust in your powerful love.
Thank you for bringing peace to our
minds and hearts.
Amen.

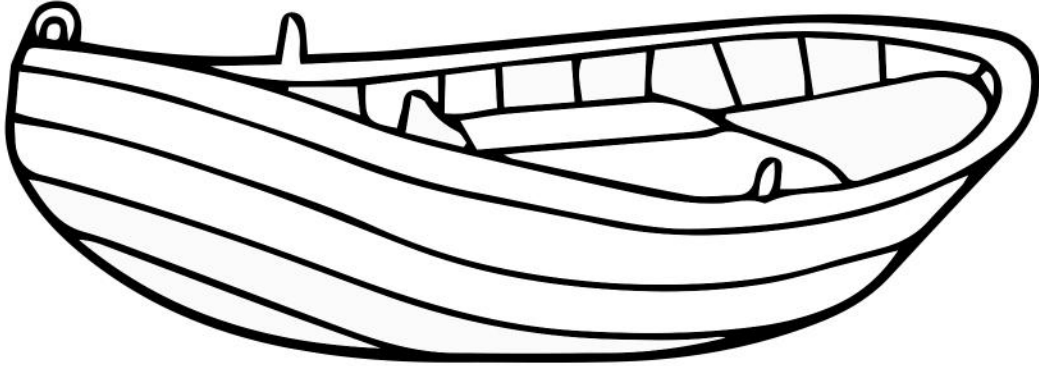
Group Activity

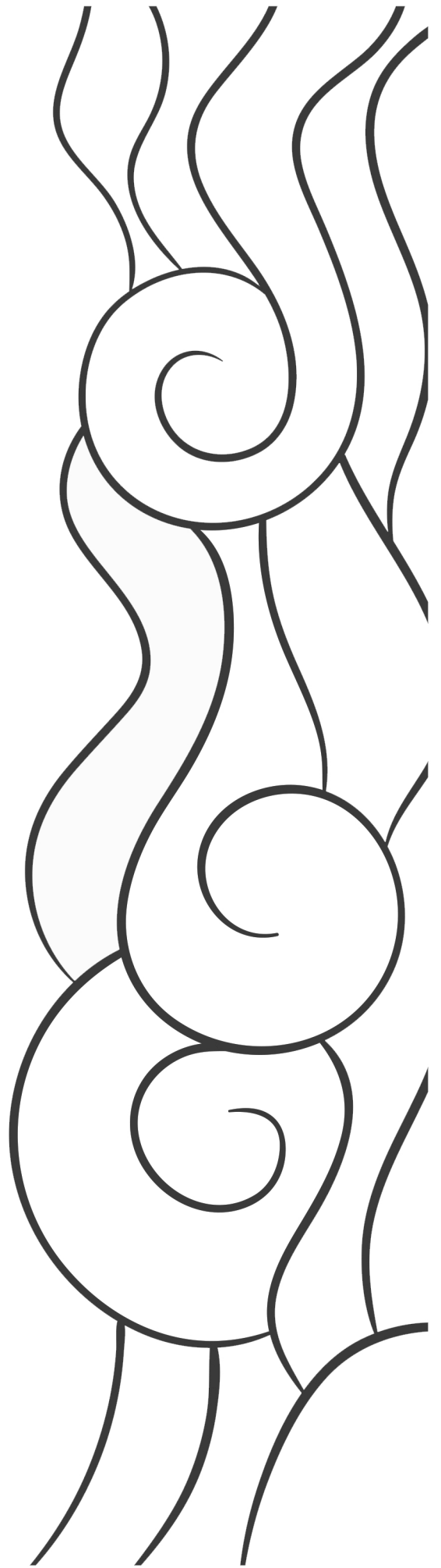
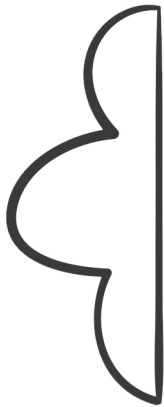
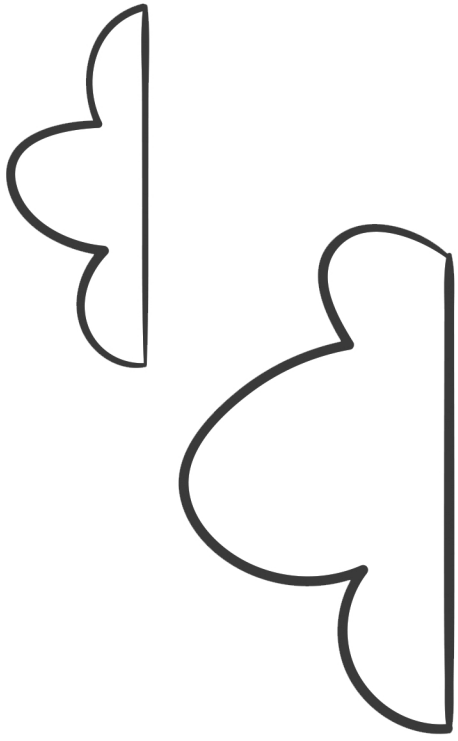
Jesus Rescues Peter in the Storm

You will need: 2-page template for each child, scissors, 3 paddle-pop sticks, sticky-tape, coloured markers or pencils, Stanley knife, cardboard or cutting mat.

- 1) Colour in the printables.
- 2) Cut out Jesus, Peter and the boat.
- 3) Tape a paddle-pop stick to the back of each character.
- 4) Use a Stanley knife to cut along the top line of the sea on the sea picture.
- 5) Use a Stanley knife to cut along the rim of the boat so Peter fits inside.
- 6) Tape a paddle-pop stick to the boat.
- 7) Insert the boat through the slit in the sea and insert each of the characters through your chosen slits. Move them from side to side.



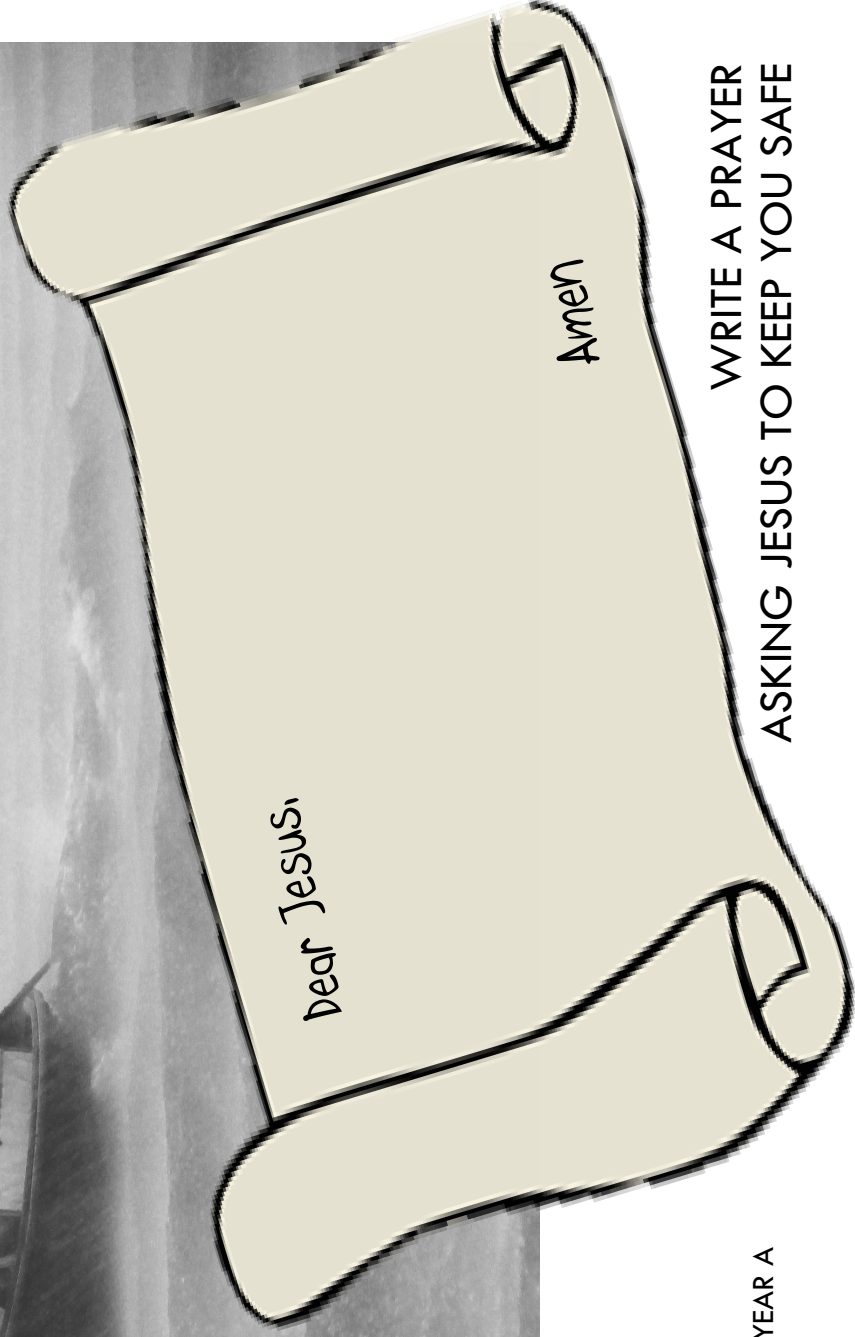






JESUS KEEPS THE APOSTLES SAFE IN A STORM

JESUS KEEPS YOU SAFE FROM DANGER TOO



Dear Jesus,

Amen

WRITE A PRAYER
ASKING JESUS TO KEEP YOU SAFE