

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 14:22-34

And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away. And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone. But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary. And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid. And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt? And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased. Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God. And when they were gone over, they came into the land of Gennesaret. (KJV)

The present Gospel offers a reassuring vision of peace centered in Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ's peaceful presence manifests and exists when the days of life are tumultuous and stormy as the sea in the present Gospel.

The disciples were in rough waters. Jesus walked upon the waters. The tumultuous sea was not an impediment to the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus told the disciples to not be afraid.

Times in life can become very difficult and fear can arise within believers. Jesus Christ is the reassuring presence in these unsettling moments. Keeping the focus on Christ enables the believer to remain calm.

Keeping the focus on Jesus Christ enables believers to see beyond the threats and concerns to see the way to the heavenly Kingdom. Remaining focused on Jesus Christ enables believers to carefully and fully analyze the existing threats to security.

The present world is faced with numerous unsettling situations. Believers are confronted with an abundance of information. At times it is difficult to sift through the facts.

Taking time to be in God's Holy Church and taking time at home to pray to the Lord God leads believers to God-pleasing conclusions for life. The Church provides the Dormition Fast for believers to refocus the direction of daily life.

This is a time to cut out from life those parts of daily living which have nothing to do with the Holy Gospel. This is the time to reject and repel personal inclinations and interests which are perilous to the soul.

The hunger in the soul is satisfied only in the Lord Jesus Christ. Full peace within the heart, mind and soul comes only through Jesus Christ. Strong faith in Jesus Christ brings believers through difficulties in life.

Fervent prayer and fasting keep the person focused on Christ. Peter began to sink in the current Gospel when he began to doubt. When doubt arises in believers, the soul is in peril.

When doubt arises, the Lord Jesus Christ's hand is outstretched to save the believer. The believer needs only to reach out to Jesus Christ and move safely forward. Joy and peace arise when the believer firmly clings to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Peace and joy are found in God's Holy Church. The Church is a strong ship impervious to the tumultuous waters of life. The Church will protect believers sailing to the heavenly Kingdom.

The rough waves of life will not overcome believers finding security in Jesus Christ. The storms of life do not overpower the presence of Christ. Believers find and experience Christ's enduring presence in the Church.

The Holy Gospel offers the nourishing lessons that keeps life secure. The Holy Gospel navigates believers through difficult waters. The Holy Gospel gives the wisdom necessary to have internal peace.

Believers need to sift through the facts of daily life. The Gospel helps believers to keep the eye on Christ. When the Gospel fills the mind, heart and soul, the believer has the life-saving equipment to deal with any storms that arise.

The Holy Gospel offers lasting truths. The Holy Gospel provides enriching words of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Gospel leads believers through difficult waters to the Kingdom of God.

During this time of the Dormition Fast, take time to concentrate on Jesus Christ. Take extra time to pray and fill the mind, heart and soul with the Gospel. Increase daily prayer.

Remove from life those interests that have nothing to do with the Kingdom of God. Be careful in what is eaten, what is read and what is watched. Take care about the images and thoughts permitted to enter the heart and mind.

Seek purity and safety in the Lord Jesus Christ. Seek peace in the heart, mind and soul. Draw strength from Jesus Christ to confront the problems in daily life. The present Gospel offers reassurance in Jesus Christ in difficult waters.

Keep the present Gospel in mind when storms arise during life. Reach out to Jesus Christ in prayer at all times and in all circumstances. Jesus Christ is always ready to lead us to peace and safety.

Joy and peace are experienced when we are firmly united with Jesus Christ. We are able to walk through the storms of life when we are firmly united with the Lord Jesus Christ. The decision to walk with Jesus Christ remains with each believer.

At Holy Baptism, each believer is united with Christ. This unity continues when the believer consciously chooses unity. Let us remain unified with Jesus Christ and the storms of life will subside and peace will exist within the heart, mind and soul.

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost. Holy Apostle Matthias. Holy Martyr Anthony.
August 9/22, 2021. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic