

Come To The Water

This Sunday most of us will notice mainly the story of Jesus walking on water, together with Peter sinking into it. But there is another very interesting spiritual dimension that I would like to suggest.

What do you think was going on in Jesus' own heart and soul during these events? We know that Jesus had emotions. We have seen them before, as when Lazarus died. In last week's Gospel, Jesus had been hit hard by news of John the Baptist's death. So he had taken a boat to a deserted place in order to grieve, quietly, by himself. But the crowd got there first and immediately pressed him into service when he arrived. Instead of the hushed time for grief he needed, Jesus' heart had been moved by the needs of the suffering people before him. He spent hour after hour, healing and curing and feeding. Exhausting.

Then came the story for this Sunday. Jesus sends the crowd away at last. And notice a strange thing, usually ignored: he "made the disciples get into a boat and precede him to the other side." Why send them ahead? Why stay there alone? The answer is easy. He still needed to be alone to process John's death, which he had not yet gotten to do.

He climbed up the mountainside and took his own time to commune with his heavenly Father. The Gospel says that by now it was evening, and that Jesus prayed well into the night. A gusty wind came up.

He could not have been comfortable.

I would love to know what his prayer was like. He had studied the scriptures since his youth, so maybe the story in our First Reading came to mind. There the prophet Elijah too was up on a mountain-side, and there too, a heavy wind came up. The Lord was not in the wind, we are told. Nor in the earthquake that followed. Nor in the fire that came next. The Lord God was in the "tiny whispering sound" that followed.

Jesus on the mountain-side heard this voice too. But what did he feel? Let's take a shot at it.

He opened his bruised trust to the Father, and lay this trust alongside his very personal loss. Perhaps Abba reassured him that even against the evidence all human beings have to rely on God, especially when it seems that tragedy has the upper hand. Jesus was divine, but divine consciousness and knowledge rested only in the deepest realm of his soul, and needed this silent time to emerge.

In prayer, Jesus returned to his normal level of trust in God, but stronger now. In the same way that he "learned obedience through what he suffered" (Hebrews 5:8), maybe he had to learn a higher level of trust through loss. Trusting is not a sheer act of the will, not simply a blind decision, but a quiet re-emergence of God's faithful love. Then, at last, Jesus does walk on water. How must it feel to leave the solid ground and walk on slushy liquid? Perhaps this walking was symbolic of the trust he had come to in his night of prayer.

Maybe trust feels like walking on water.
John Foley, SJ

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time August 09, 2020

St. Stephens Indian Mission

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Sacrament of Reconciliation & Sacrament of the Sick

You may call the office to schedule an appointment for confession. If there is no answer please leave your name and phone number and Father Jim will return your call. Please do not schedule an appointment if you are sick, please wait until you are well to protect yourself and the priest. Priest and penitent will be required to wear a mask and maintain a safe six foot distance during confession.

The Sacrament of the sick will still be available for those who are terminal and is now available to those who have an upcoming surgery. Please call the office if you or a loved one is in need of this sacrament.

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Come in seeking; come in wondering; come in hurting. Come into this house of companionship and compassion. Come in. You are welcome here. Our faith Family opens its doors to you and in the name of Christ, bids you Welcome!
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The purpose of St. Stephen's Indian Mission, the presence of the Roman Catholic Church among the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho, is to grow into a strong community of believers, sharing our lives in the Holy Spirit, forming one welcoming People of God, who are committed to Jesus Christ, His gospel and mission.

Readings August 10th through August 16th:

- Mon: 2 Cor 9:6-10; Ps 112:1-2, 5-9; Jn 12:24-26
- Tue: Ez 2:8-3:4; Ps 119:14, 24, 72, 103, 111, 131; Mt 18:1-5, 10, 12-14
- Wed: Ez 9:1-7, 10:18-22; Ps 113:1-6; Mt 18:15-20
- Thur: Ez 12:1-12; Ps 78:56-59, 61-62; Mt 18:21-19:1
- Fri: Ez 16:1-15, 60, 63; (Ps) Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6; Mt 19:3-12
- Sat: Rv 11:19a, 12:1-6a, 10ab; Ps 45:10-12, 16; 1 Cor 15:20-27; Lk 1:39-56
- Sun: Rom 11:13-15, 29-32; Mt 15:21-28

Parish Collection

Last week mail in collection \$1242
"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." Corinthians 9:7

THANK YOU to all who have continued to make financial contributions to St. Stephens Indian Mission through these most trying times! God Bless!

Mass Intentions this week

- 8/9: Sunday +Father Carl Beavers
Sunday For the people
- 8/10: Monday
- 8/11: Tuesday
- 8/12: Wednesday +Fr. Joe Fraher
- 8/13: Thursday +Edward LaMorte
- 8/14: Friday
- 8/15: Saturday The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 8/16: Sunday Howard Brown on his birthday
Sunday For the people

Praised be Jesus Christ! Praise Him now and always!

As we continue to celebrate Sunday Mass at St. Stephens, we are still limited to 10 people in attendance as we follow the Wind River Intertribal Council's resolution. If you would like to be added to the rotating list of parishioners for Mass please call the office or email the parish office. Please remember that Bishop Steven's general dispensation from the Sunday Mass obligation will remain in effect for the duration of Mass attendance restrictions. Mass is available for viewing on K2 Television at 9am and/or you may watch via livestream on St. Margaret's or Holy Rosary's FB pages.

Face masks will be required at Mass, use hand sanitizer, please refrain from exchanging handshakes during the Sign of Peace and maintain at least six feet apart from parishioners (except if you are in the same household) including processing to receive the Eucharist. If you are not feeling well and are scheduled to attend Mass please stay home and call the office so we can switch you with another parishioner until you feel well. Please keep our church family safe.

Having Mass offered for an anniversary, marriage, special occasion, or in memory of someone is a special gift. Cards are available at the office.
 Diocesan guideline is \$10.00 for Mass.

Please pray for the family of the deceased:

- +Susan Crazythunder
- +Bill Crazythunder

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

O Immaculate Virgin, Mother of God and Mother of men.
 We believe with all the fervor of our faith in your triumphal Assumption, both in body and soul, into heaven, where you are acclaimed as Queen by all the choirs of angels and all the legions of saints; and we unite with them to praise and bless the Lord who has exalted you above all other pure creatures, and to offer you the tribute of our devotion and our love.
 We know that your gaze, which on earth watched over the humble and suffering humanity of Jesus, is filled in heaven with the vision of that Humanity glorified, and with the vision of Uncreated Wisdom; and that the joy of your soul in the direct contemplation of the adorable Trinity causes your heart to throb with overwhelming tenderness. And we, poor sinners, whose body weighs down the flight of the soul, beg you to purify our hearts, so that, while we remain here below, we may learn to see God, and God alone, in the beauties of His creatures.
 We trust that your merciful eyes may deign to glance down upon our miseries and our sorrows, upon our struggles and our weaknesses; that your countenance may smile upon our joys and our victories; that you may hear the voice of Jesus saying to you of each one of us, as He once said to you of His beloved disciple: behold thy son. And we who call upon you as our Mother, like John, take you as the guide, strength, and consolation of our mortal life.
 We are inspired by the certainty that your eyes which wept over the earth, watered by the Blood of Jesus, are yet turned toward this world, held in the clutch of wars, persecutions, and oppression of the just and the weak.
 And from the shadows of this vale of tears, we seek in your heavenly assistance and tender mercy comfort for our aching hearts and help in the trials of the Church and of our fatherland.
 We believe, finally, that in the glory where you reign, clothed with the sun and crowned with the stars, you are, after Jesus, the joy and gladness of all the angels and of all the saints.
 And from this earth, over which we tread as pilgrims, comforted by our faith in the future resurrection, we look to you, our life, our sweetness, and our hope; draw us onward with the sweetness of your voice, that one day, after our exile, you may show us Jesus, the blessed Fruit of your womb, O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.