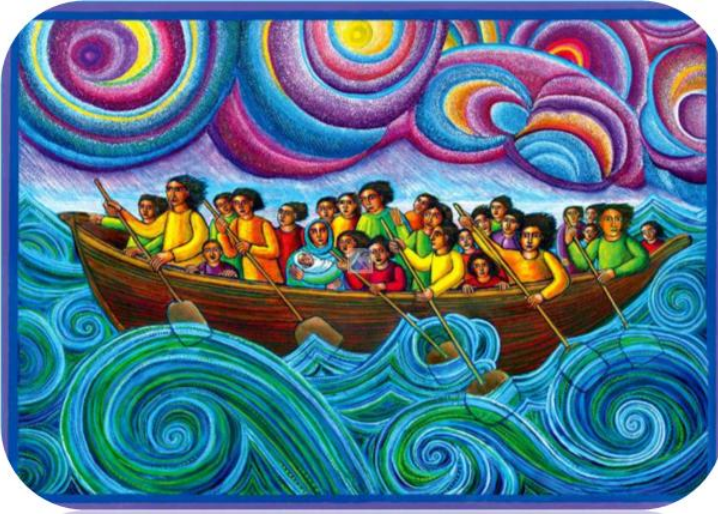


Blessed Trinity Catholic Community + Spirit of Christ Mission
Nineteenth Summer Sunday ~A~ August 13, 2026

1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a; Psalm 85: 9, 10, 11-12, 13-14; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:22-23

Homily: Fr. Ed Hislop



Strong and heavy wind, crushing rocks, earthquake, fire close by and burning homes of our neighbors and friends in Spokane, words of fury, unrelenting war, neighbors and friends living in fear, and so many things going on we never thought possible.

STILL, THE LORD IS NOT HEARD!

The world today is again being tossed about by the waves of fear, harsh words of threat and violence. Such words evoke terror for many, while others find such words “overdo,” or signs of strength and resolve. But such words, which always matter, beget harsher words as violence always begets more violence.

STILL, THE LORD IS NOT HEARD!

The harsh wind and boisterous words are, it seems, against hope, Kindness, truth, justice and peace. The winds of war and threats of violence are loud and too close to home; but those windy words are not of the truth of Christ!

The spirit of the Gospel, the vision of Christ, the mission of the Church is often found in the middle of the storms and crashing waves of the real world in which we live. Like the boat in the Gospel today, the “winds are often against” that vision and mission.

In the midst of such storms, and harsh winds, it is hard to both hear “*the tiny whispering sound*” of God’s voice, and to see the Christ we have chosen to follow moving through the crashing waves, the blazing flames, and terrorizing words, beckoning us out of the boat and into the storm where with “*great sorrow and constant anguish in our heart,*” “*we take courage*” and choose not to be afraid, even as we cry out, “*Lord save us.*”

“*Lord save us*” as we struggle to believe in your words and your vision; “*Lord save us*” as we choose to place our trust and our faith in your way; “*Lord save us*” even when we have “*little faith,*” even when we sink into doubt. “*Lord save us*” and raise us up to doubt the harsh words and the empty promise that violence, killing and terror will bring peace, justice, truth or kindness. LET US FINALLY HEAR YOUR VOICE, YOUR WORDS.

Stretch out your hand and let our words, our acts, our vision, our faith, our worship, become that “*tiny whispering sound:*” a sound of hope, turning to “*thoughts of peace;*” a whisper of love overcoming hate, a voice for dialogue so *enemies can speak again to each other, and nations can seek to live in harmony.*

It will be that “*tiny whispering sound*” heard in every place, in every house, in every land that could quell the storm of violence, hatred and vengeance. A whispering sound of stillness in the loving presence of God.

A WHISPERING SOUND, FINALLY SPEAKING GOD’S WORD, trusting that “*Kindness and truth shall meet; Justice and peace shall kiss. Truth shall spring out of the earth, and justice shall look down from heaven.*” *Psalm 85*

A quiet sound, sometimes hardly heard: “*Be still, be still and know that I am God... My life is yours, in you I live; My love is with you all your days. Be still.*” *Hymn at Presentation of the gifts: Be Still and Know That I Am God*

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Maybe a whisper finally, heard through the strong driving wind, terrible words and crashing waves: *“O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” “On this boat... are all of us... we cannot go on thinking of ourselves, but only together can we do this.”* Pope Francis

Listen, hear the Lord: *“THOUGH THE MOUNTAINS MAY FALL, OR THE HILLS TURN TO DUST... THE LOVE OF THE LORD WILL STAND AS A SHELTER FOR ALL...”*
Leavetaking Hymn, Though the Mountains May Fall, Dan Schute ©1975 OCP

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