

# Scripture Prayer For The Week

"Once...  
when Jesus...  
was praying alone..." (Luke 9:18)



Artwork Dorothy Woodward

## Ordinary Time - Nineteenth Sunday – Yr A

**We Gather:** In the prayer space, have the bible opened at the Gospel reading. Green is the appropriate liturgical colour. A single oar or paddle, a coil of rope, a net- indicating the boat.

**Leader:** I will hear what the Lord God has to say

**All:** A voice that speaks of peace.

**We Listen:** The Gospel. Matthew 14:22-33

Read the gospel passage reflectively. After a time of silent reflection, the line from scripture below could be repeated and the short commentary read.

**“He went to the hills to pray...and was there alone...while the boat battled the heavy sea.”**

Jesus is not “setting up” the disciples. He is not exposing them to danger so he could rescue them and show his power, and demand their faith. Is this an interpretation we were once taught? Mind you, that’s how WE tend to deal with others, but manipulating and testing is not the Divine way. In truth, the passage instructs us by its sequence of events. These steps reveal how God wants to be with us and how we, in turn, can live in God’s true compassionate image. First, we are sent by Jesus out into the world’s sea, to live out our days freely, responsibly and courageously. Then, Jesus gives himself over to union with his God, going up the hill, the place of God’s presence. Is he separated from his disciples in doing this? No, it is unstated, but we are aware that in his unity with God, Jesus is also fully aware of our condition, in the distress and struggle of the storm. Finally, his calming and of the storm and his rescue of Peter, is really a call for us to commit to the same unity with God as he has. “Come to me, do not doubt, I am with you.”

**We Respond:** “In the fourth watch, he went towards them walking on the lake.”

In silence, reflect on the questions below? You may wish to have a time of brief sharing.

- In the restlessness of night, can I trust that Jesus walks alongside me?
- Why do I put a barrier between God and myself? Can I step out of the boat?

**Song:** Galilee Song (F Andersen-AOV1) or God With Us (Hart/Thompson-Spirit & Song))

**We Go Forth:**

God you are in every place that we find ourselves: God you are alive and active in every moment of our lives. May we deepen our awareness of your presence, your unity with us that makes all things holy, good and fruitful. Give us the courage to step forward with Jesus into unsettled times and situations, for in doing so, we will uncover new ways of justice, peace-making and love. We ask this through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Leader:** O God, show us your mercy and love **All:** And grant us your salvation.