

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Christ the Crucified Comes to Save Us by the Word of Faith



Background: Most of the world knows Christ was crucified and died on a cross. But as Paul points out to the Romans, if we still try to justify ourselves by living the perfect life, we deceive ourselves. It is by Faith and trust redeeming work that brings us salvation.

Peter rescued by Christ from drowning Lorenzo Veneziano 1370

When the disciples first saw Christ when trying to cross the stormy sea, They cried out “it’s a ghost!” (meaning We are doomed). But Christ simply assured them “it is I”. Peter then says “if it you Lord, let me walk on the water to you” Jesus said “come”. So Peter got out of the boat and walked to Christ, but when he saw a big wave coming, his faith disappeared and he asked for Christ’s help to keep from drowning. Christ chastised Peter for losing his faith when he saw a wave coming. So it is with us—There are many things in life that can cause us to be fearful. But number one in importance is maintaining our focus on Christ’s saving work and keeping our faith in His redeeming work. He has sent the Holy Spirit to help us and maintain our faith in him.

The Lessons: Job 38:4–18, Romans 10:5–17, & Matthew 14:22–33

The Lord who “laid the foundation of the earth” (Job 38:4) is the Author and Giver of life who governs all things by His Word. His wisdom and power are beyond our understanding, except as He reveals Himself in the incarnate Word, Christ Jesus. He has “entered into the springs of the sea” and “walked in the recesses of the deep” (Job 38:16), and He draws near to us in mercy. We have been “a long way from the land, beaten by the waves” and tossed about by hostile winds (Matt. 14:24). In our mortality and sinful unbelief, we do not always recognize the Lord Jesus. But as we cry out in fear, He speaks tenderly to us, “Do not be afraid,” and He reaches out His hand to save us (Matt. 14:27, 31). “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved” (Rom. 10:13), and now we call upon Him in faith, because we have heard “through the word of Christ” (Rom. 10:17). “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (Rom. 10:8).