



## Orthodox Mission of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

306 W. Main Street  
Emmitsburg, MD 21727

The Rev. Fr. Elias Yelovich, Pastor

<http://EntranceMission.org>

### *Our One and Only Hope* August 9, 2020

**Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

**Christ is in our midst! He is and every shall be!**

*But when he [Peter] saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. (Matthew 14: 30-32)*

The Gospel lesson for this Sunday relates the miracle of our Lord walking on the water. After preaching to the multitude, Jesus tells His disciples to head over to the other side of the lake where He will join them later. They obey and get into the boat to cross over. As they sail across the lake, a storm comes upon them. The boat is rocked violently to and fro, and the disciples cower in fear. As they huddle together, they see Jesus walking across the water. St. Matthew relates that St. Peter ventured onto the water to walk upon it in the way in which he saw Jesus walking, but he sinks. Crying out, "Lord save me!" the Lord reaches out His hand, saves him and pulls him into the boat. Once in the boat, the wind ceases immediately.

The image of the disciples cowering in the boat as the wind and waves pound them is the very image of the Church. In some traditions, modern churches are built in the form of a boat, with the ceiling representing the upturned hull of a boat. This is intended as a reminder that we

present-day disciples are basically no different in our situation than that of the original twelve. We come together in the Church while the raging winds and waves of the outside world buffet us about. We are beset by the multitudes around us who do not believe, by leaders who are immoral, by a raging virus that has killed hundreds of thousands of people throughout the world, by the pride of people who will not allow themselves to be inconvenienced to wear masks for the benefit of others, by unbelief that is now normative in the communities in which we live, by never ending assaults of the devil and its minions, by unseen warfare raging viciously around us. What is our alternative? Either to cower together in fear, or to call out, "Lord, save us," and invite Him into our midst, our One and Only True Hope.

It is interesting in the account of this miracle that it is our Lord Himself Who tells the disciples to get into the boat without Him, knowing as He certainly must have known, that they would be thrown about in that boat by the raging storm. St. John Chrysostom in his Homily Number 50 on the Gospel of Matthew says that Christ unquestionably did this purposefully. He did this to teach them and us that without Him we can do nothing. Only when we call out to Him in faith and in love can we be saved by everything around us that threatens to undo us.

This, Brothers and Sisters, is the message to remember! As the virus wages, as the culture diminishes, as the civilization degrades, as the turmoil around us increases and hope diminishes, we are those very disciples in the boat who must reach out to Him. We must remember above all else that without Him, we truly can do nothing. We must remember that no one who trusts in Him ever trusts in vain. We must remember that we need only reach out to Him with that cry of help, "Lord, save us." And He will stretch out His own divine hand of mercy in ways that we could never possibly anticipate. This, Brothers and Sisters, is our One and Only True Hope!

Fr. Elias

Orthodox Mission of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

306 West Main Street

Emmitsburg, MD 21727

<http://EntranceMission.org>

717-817-0084