

Jesus Walks on the Water

22 Immediately he made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. **23** And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came (*lit. "the 4th watch" Between 3-6am. The darkest time of night.*), he was there alone, **24** but by this time the boat, battered by the waves (*The church is often depicted as a boat to symbolize a vessel of salvation that safely carries believers through the storms of the world mirroring Noah's Ark*)*, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. **25** And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea (*the miracle is not so much Jesus defying gravity as it is Jesus treading over the abode of chaos, death, and Satan*),* **26** But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. **27** But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; (*lit. Courage: I Am!*)* do not be afraid." **28** Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." (*Peter wants proof and so he leaves the boat. His demand echoes Satan's words, "If you are the Son of God..."*) **29** He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. **30** But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me! (*"Kyrie eleison"*)" **31** Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith (*not skepticism but vacillation*), why did you doubt? (*Our faith, like Peter's, is a mixture of faith and doubt, courage and anxiety. We hear the word of the Lord but we also see the terror of the storm.*)" **32** When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. **33** And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

* **The Nave:** The central main seating area of a church is named from the Latin word *navis*, meaning "ship". **Upside-Down Hull:** The high arched wooden ceilings of traditional sanctuaries are often intentionally built to resemble the interior frame of an upturned boat. **The Mast and Cross:** The central structural beams or altars historically represent the mast, which doubles as the shape of the Christian cross. **The Wind of the Holy Spirit:** Church sails in artwork and iconography are depicted being filled by the wind, symbolizing the power of the Holy Spirit guiding the faithful.

*(Exodus 3:13-14) **13** But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" **14** God said to Moses, "I am who I am." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I am has sent me to you.'"

*(Rev 21:1) Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.