

**Worship Material**  
**Lord, save me!**  
**Materials from Roots Bible Study**  
**Sunday 13th August**

**Begin with an opening prayer**

Almighty God, you are found in the middle of our storms,  
calm and reassuring; the wind and waves do not overcome you.  
You are the voice that bids us step forth in faith,  
and the hand outstretched to save when we falter.  
We adore you for all that you are;  
our shelter, our safe haven, our anchor.  
**Amen.**

**Read Matthew 14:22-33**

**Bible notes**

In the beginning, there was watery chaos. God created space for life by dividing the water (Genesis 1:6-7). Controlling water is an attribute of God. When Jesus walks on water, and when he pulls Peter from the waves, he is doing what God does. This is the second in a series of stories that highlights Jesus as the one who shares God's power.

Following the feeding of the five thousand, Jesus chooses to be alone with God. It is easy to imagine that he needs space to process what happened. When he walks on water, it is just as clear a revelation of God's power within him as the sharing of the loaves and fishes. 'Don't be afraid!' he tells the disciples in words that echo the way angels greet humans; and he identifies himself with the words 'It is I', the name God gives to Moses at the burning bush (Exodus 3:14).

This is Matthew's second story of boats at risk. The first (8:23-27) names Jesus' power to quieten the wind and the waves. Here, Matthew asks us to attend to the way Jesus shares his power with Peter, proving that this is accessible to others too. Peter's faith holds him for a while, then collapses as his fear wins out. Yet he still trusts Jesus enough to call out to him for help, recalling the psalmist's cry 'Save me, O God' (Psalm 69:1). Jesus stretches his hand out to him as God stretched out to help the Israelites in Egypt (Exodus 3:20), and he is safe. The first boat story ends with a question: what kind of man is this? (8:27). This story ends with greater confidence and knowledge. The disciples worship Jesus as the Son of God, recognising that he does what God does.

**Prayer**

Lord, we thank you for the story of Peter faltering amid stormy seas,  
because it is reassuring to us when we do likewise;  
and we praise you for walking on those rough waters,  
for it teaches us that you are in the storm with us,  
as you were with Peter and those disciples still in the boat;

and you are the one we can trust to save us when we sink.  
Help us to keep our eyes on you in stormy times,  
for you alone will prevent us from going under.  
Your arm is strong to save, however weak our faith may be.  
**Amen.**

### **A prayer to conclude**

Loving God, you know me through and through.  
You know my hopes, my fears,  
the things that get me going, and those that make me freeze.  
Give me the courage to put my anxious, fearful thoughts and  
feelings aside, to listen to you.  
And to get out of the boat, my eyes fixed always on you.  
**Amen.**