

## WEEKLY MEDITATION

*But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. (Matthew 14:24)*

The sea is powerful, restless, dangerous, mysterious. We stand in awe of it, our wonder mingled with fear.

Yet the Lord rules over the seas. *Mightier than the thunders of many waters, mightier than the waves of the sea, the LORD on high is mighty! (Ps 92)*

The Word and the Spirit are the creative hands of the Father. By them He created all things, and not least the waters: *The sea is His, for He made it; for His hands formed the dry land. (Ps 94).*

The blind forces of nature are subject to His command: *For He commanded, and raised the stormy wind, which lifted up the waves of the sea. He made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed. (Ps 106)*

As the Savior of the Hebrews, He led them safely through the Red Sea in their escape from Egypt: *He turned the sea into dry land; men passed through the river on foot. There did we rejoice in him. (Ps 65) He divided the sea and let them pass through it, and made the waters stand like a heap. (Ps 77)*

As the Incarnate Lord He asserted His divine power over the waters at His baptism. The hymns of Theophany affirm in the words of the psalmist: *The sea looked and fled, Jordan turned back. What ails you, O sea, that you flee? O Jordan, that you turn back? (Ps 113)*

Our Lord's divine authority and power is revealed throughout the Gospels: He walks upon the water, He rebukes and calms the waves, He sees into its the mysterious depths.

The sea is a metaphor for our life. We can be swept up by the dangerous and mysterious ways of the world, tossed about by forces beyond our control, driven by restless forces within us. Like Peter we need to hold fast in mind and heart to the Lord and, in the words of our burial service cry out: *Beholding the sea of life surging high with the storm of temptation, I have fled to thy tranquil haven and cry out to Thee: Raise up my life from corruption, O greatly merciful One!*

**~Fr. Andrew**

