

JUNE 23, 2024
FIFTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



God cares for us when we are afraid.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Mark 4:35-41	Jesus calms the waters
Monday	Job 38:1-11	God's rebuke of Job
Tuesday	2 Corinthians 6:1-13	How Paul served God
Wednesday	Psalms 56	A prayer of trust in God
Thursday	Joshua 1:1-9	God's commission to Joshua
Friday	Joel 2:18-27	God's response and promise
Saturday	Psalms 107:1-3, 23-32	God saves those in distress
Sunday	Mark 5:21-43	Jesus heals and raises to life

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

And they [disciples] were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

Mark 4:41 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of comfort and assurance, we thank you for your presence that promises to protect us through the storms of life through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, you who still the storm and hush the waves, we thank you for protecting us and caring for us with this food through Christ our Lord. Amen. (Psalm 107:29)

A Blessing to Give:

May your heart be open to the grace of God in Christ. (2 Corinthians 6:13)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK
Calm to the Waves



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- When is a time you were afraid? What did you do?
- How is God with you when you are afraid?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 4:35-41.

This story is not simply about a miracle showing the powers of Jesus over nature. It is about the presence of the kingdom of God in Jesus silencing and rebuking the powers of evil, death, and destruction. First century Jews and Christians experienced a traumatic time in history. Roman rulers dictated their lives, destroyed the temple in Jerusalem, and slaughtered countless lives. It is reminiscent of the shock and sorrow that many have experienced throughout time. At such times one wonders what will happen and if there is hope for the future. The disciples in the boat with Jesus are filled with fear and wonder who this Jesus is. We, as the readers of Mark, have a better view of what is happening. An image for the church is the boat at sea with Jesus. A word we use for the worshiping space inside a church building is nave from the Latin word (*navis*), which means "ship." There can be times in our lives when we, ourselves, are tossed by the wind and waves yet sheltered by Jesus, the Son of God who silences and rebukes all that frightens us.

Discuss: How does faith in Jesus calm you and others who follow Christ?

Pray: **Almighty and living God, in the midst of our uncertainties and fears we thank you for your saving presence that silences the storms of our lives and world through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you show God's love and care for someone who is going through a difficult time?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In the Bible the sea is often seen as a place that lacks order and safety. The sea represents that which seeks to undermine God's design for life. Because of this, the church has been portrayed as a ship at sea with Jesus at the helm. Some congregations actually have a ship hanging down from the ceiling in the sanctuary or nave (word for ship). Draw a picture of a boat or take a model of a ship and place it in a visible place to remind you that your life in Christ is protected by Jesus just as he protected his disciples during the storm on the Sea of Galilee. Place next to the ship these words: Thank you, Jesus, for protecting us in the storms of life.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org