

12<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year



*THE GOSPEL. [Mark 4:35-41](#)*

**Then he asked them, "Why are you terrified? Do you not have faith?"**

Raging waves of discord break all around us  
and squalls scream through our lives.  
Out of sinking boats, we call,  
"We are going down!  
Jesus, save  
us!"  
O  
calm  
our storms.  
"Quiet! Be still,"  
we long to hear you say!  
Give us faith to know, that in  
sunny days or climate crisis, hunger,  
or homelessness, or housed and well fed,  
you never leave our boat. Make our ride holy,  
  
Lord of wind and sea.

*THE FIRST READING. [Job 38:1, 8-11](#)*

*Thus far shall you come but no farther,  
and here shall your proud waves be stilled.*

Fasten the bars on the doors.  
Block all discrimination to

our brothers and sisters.  
Set limits on the harm  
we heap on our  
sister Earth.

Lord God,  
open the floodgates  
of your love.

Director of the stars, moon and tides,  
direct all their actions

*THE SECOND READING. 2 Corinthians 5:14-17*

*He indeed died for all, so that those who live might  
no longer live for themselves.*

Fasten us securely to you, O Christ.  
We want to be a new creation.  
In you and with you,  
let us do what  
you want  
us to  
do.

Help us live our lives  
more for others,  
instead of for  
ourselves. *Anne Osdieck*

**REFLECTION:**

**Reflection**

**A Hard Kind of Prayer**

I love the line,  
“Lord, don’t you care?”  
because it is so typical of our reactions.  
Yes, there is a God, but what is he like?  
Mark is trying to tell us, and like as not, we can’t hear.  
The sound of the inner wind is deafening us.

“Lord, don’t you care?”  
We may have to wait out the prayer,  
wait out the days or weeks,  
without coming to the quietude  
we feel we ought to be able to have.

“Lord, don’t you care?”

And that is all we have to offer him.  
So wait there. Offer it.

Don’t thrash and gnash your teeth wanting to be other than  
the weak and self-interested little disciple in the boat.

The worst aspect of a nervous upheaval—guilt, anger, despair, and whatever else is messing up the  
deeps of our personalities—  
is trying to counter desperation with desperation.

“I have to be good.

I have to be the opposite of what I feel:  
serene, accepting, and peaceful.

I have to trust.”

Maybe the kind of trust the Lord is asking for is precisely my putting up with the experience of  
knowing  
that I am fiercely pulling at his jacket to wake him up  
and make him into the God I want to be able to please.

It’s a hard kind of prayer.

But it acknowledges surrender to the ministrations of a sea I cannot understand.

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**Though Christ may seem to be asleep,  
he is with us at every moment of our lives.**

Grant, O Lord,

that we may always revere and love your holy name,

for you never deprive of your guidance

those you set firm on the foundation of your love.

This week’s readings, including the Psalm and Gospel, reveal a God with power. As  
God’s creatures, the forces of nature listen to and obey the voice of their Creator.

Though the storms of fear and doubt may have played more significant roles in our lives during this past year, God's love continues to speak to us with words of calm, as it did to Job (First Reading).

It is the love of Christ, not the storm, which 'overwhelms us' (Second Reading).

This love is shown in the Gospel, when Jesus 'rebukes the wind' and the wind and waves obey. He is revealing something about his divine nature. 'Who can this be?' the disciples are led to ask as they are filled with awe. Their question may also be seeking a faith response in us as well.

Let's begin to ponder our own responses with the help of these scripture passages. Although we may yet be experiencing storms blowing around and within us, let's listen for that strong, yet calm voice, which brings with it peace and security. We may want to pray that the voice of the psalmist may echo throughout our lives in the coming week: 'Give thanks to the Lord, for his love endures forever'.

