



**Introduction**

*Now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation! Now we are in the storm, the boat almost swamped; but Jesus is here now, and when we call him, he will calm the storm. Even the wind and waves listen to him as they would to their creator. We also listen to him and are called to believe in the power of God's word in him, a power greater than all that we fear.*

**Confession and Forgiveness**

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone.

Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and one another.

Most merciful God,  
**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.**  
**We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,**  
**by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**  
**We have not loved you with our whole heart;**  
**we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**  
**For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.**  
**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,**  
**so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,**  
**to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved.

In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen**

*Listen and sing along [here](#).*

## Prayer of the Day

O God of creation, eternal majesty, you preside over land and sea, sunshine and storm. By your strength pilot us, by your power preserve us, by your wisdom instruct us, and by your hand protect us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## First Reading: Job 38:1-11

*At the end of the book of Job, after Job and his companions have argued about the cause of the great suffering Job endures, God finally speaks. These verses begin that speech, which is a grand vision of creation, describing God's ordering of the cosmos and inviting Job to marvel at its beauty.*

*Read the complete text [here](#).*

## Psalm: Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32

<sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good, for God's mercy endures forever.

<sup>2</sup>**Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim  
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**

<sup>3</sup>gathering them in from the lands;

from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

<sup>23</sup>**Some went down to the sea in ships, plying their trade in deep waters.**

<sup>24</sup>They beheld the works of the LORD, God's wonderful works in the deep.

<sup>25</sup>**Then God spoke, and a stormy wind arose,  
which tossed high the waves of the sea.**

<sup>26</sup>They mounted up to the heavens and descended to the depths;  
their souls melted away in their peril.

<sup>27</sup>**They staggered and reeled like drunkards, and all their skill was of no avail.**

<sup>28</sup>Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD,  
and you delivered them from their distress.

<sup>29</sup>**You stilled the storm to a whisper and silenced the waves of the sea.**

<sup>30</sup>Then were they glad when it grew calm,  
when you guided them to the harbor they desired.

<sup>31</sup>**Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love  
and your wonderful works for all people.**

<sup>32</sup>Let them exalt you in the assembly of the people;  
in the council of the elders, let them sing hallelujah!

## **Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 6:1-13**

*Paul and his fellow workers experience great hardships and even rejection while carrying out their missionary work. Nevertheless, Paul continuously proclaims that God has not rejected us but is graciously working for our salvation.*

*Read the complete text [here](#).*

## **Gospel: Mark 4:35-41**

*Jesus' calming of the storm on the sea reveals his power over evil, since the sea represents evil and chaos. The boat on the sea is a symbol of the church and invites us to trust God amid life's turbulence.*

*Read the complete text [here](#).*

## **Reflection on the Text**

Every time I hear this Gospel passage, I go back to my childhood, going fishing in a boat with my parents and grandmother. We fished everywhere ranging from fishing piers on the coast, to river fishing, and to boat fishing in the Albemarle and Pamlico sounds.

There were a several times that we were fishing in one of the sounds and we could see white, fluffy clouds off in the distance. They seemed to be miles away and nothing to worry about. Yet a couple of times, those clouds changed into black storm clouds.

One of those times, the clouds caught us by surprise. From what I remember, we were catching enough fish to keep us distracted from our surroundings. It was late enough that it was getting dark anyhow, but those black clouds all around made it seem like night. The wind came up, and a heavy rain came down. The water was choppy and rocking our boat. We rushed back to the boat ramp, hoping and praying to make it safely. On that trip, we had to take buckets and bail out water to keep from sinking.

That is what comes to mind when I read this passage. I can see the disciples becoming worried. Bailing out the water that was coming in over the sides of the boat. Being afraid. On top of that, most of the disciples were professional fisherman, not some 8-year-old kid like me. That means the storm was a really rough.

I am willing to bet that most of us have had events like that, whether it was in a boat or driving a car down the road in a major rainstorm. It can be frightening. Of course, there are the storms that involve tornados, or blizzards, or hurricanes. All storms in life that we cannot control.

We have other storms in our lives as well, don't we? Illness, pandemics, worries about someone or some event. Most, if not all, are out of our control. Loss of control, the sense

of chaotic events around us lead to this sense of fear or worry. A certain amount of fear or worry helps us to respond to events, such as helping someone who has fallen.

We can all put ourselves in the boat with the disciples. We could easily be one of them that is asking Jesus, "Do you care about us? Will you help us?"

Enough of the gloomy stuff.

How about some happy or good news? The good news is here in this passage, and in the others as well. When Jesus is awakened from his sleep, what did he do? He told the storm and water to calm down, be still.

**AND IT DID!!**

Now that was miraculous feat all by itself. We cannot tell a storm to be still and it will. Jesus has miraculous abilities that we do not have.

Let us think about this a little bit. What does this say about Jesus? According to the scholars, the Near East religions believed that rivers, lakes, oceans, and other bodies of water had gods that controlled them. For water was not easy to control. Storms come and go. Rivers and lakes flood, or they dry up in droughts. Hurricanes come in and damage things.

Things have changed a little since then, but not much. We have wells with pumps, irrigation ditches, and dams that help control water flow. Yet we do not have any control over rain, or the lack of thereof. Nor do we have any control over tornados or hurricanes. Yet Jesus does.

Jesus calms the storms and the waters. This connects to the Job reading. God is asking Job just where he was when God was creating the cosmos. Where was Job when the waters were put into their places? Think about Genesis and the creation stories. Who does all the work? God! God has control over physical elements. Then here is Jesus controlling the weather and the storm. Jesus is a part of the Triune God. The same God that created the world and keeps it moving. The same God that created us.

SO, Jesus is God. Since Jesus is God, our response is to trust Jesus when Jesus talks about loving us. God is faithful in God's promises to the world. Therefore, have faith that God love us and will be involved in our lives, no matter the storms that are around us.

There will still be bad weather events, illnesses, yes even death in the present. But Jesus has been with us all along and will continue to be along with us in the future.

Yes, if you see a snake a foot from you, be scared for your safety. But do not be afraid about going forth in life. Jesus loves us and will give us what we need as we go along. It might come in prayer, in worship, or in daily life from others around you. It might come in a friend, a church member or a stranger that looks different. God will show us his love.

And it does not matter what part of the journey we are on either. We can be newborn, growing up, middle age, near death, or on the other side. God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit will never, ever fail in loving us, guiding us, and providing what we need. We may not always see God's thoughts for us, but we can trust in God's abilities to take care of us for eternity. Amen

**Hymn of the Day ELW # 756 / LBW # 467**     *Eternal Father, Strong to Save*  
*Listen and sing along [here](#).*

### **Apostles' Creed**

*We profess our faith with the whole church in all times and places:*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

*A brief silence.*

Holy God, you gather your people from east and west, north and south. We pray for the mission of the church throughout the world, that your steadfast love may be made known to all peoples. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You laid the foundations of the earth and the waters are the womb of creation. The morning stars sing your name and all creation shouts for joy. We pray for your blessed creation, that it may continue to flourish and magnify your glory.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You keep watch over all nations. We pray for countries experiencing violence, hunger, and unrest. Guide worldwide and local community organizations in their efforts to establish safety and justice. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You are close to the brokenhearted and near to those in distress. We pray for those who are experiencing oppression. Liberate us from the systems and chains that bind us.

Remove the barriers that separate us from one another.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You dwell with us in this faith community. We pray for our leaders and elders. Grant them knowledge, patience, and kindness. We pray for those in any need that you would be with them and comfort them, especially those we name now.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Your love endures in all situations. On this Father's Day, we pray for those who are fathers or wish to be fathers, for those with broken or strained relationships, for those who are missing their fathers, and for fathers who have lost children. Bless and strengthen them. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace. **Amen.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

**Closing Hymn ELW # 812/ LBW # 500**

***Faith of Our Fathers***

*Listen and sing along [here](#).*

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Today's reflection was written by Vicar Mike Lang.