

GOSPEL

Mk 4: 35-41

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

Who can this be? Even the wind and the sea obey him.

With the coming of evening, Jesus said to his disciples, 'Let us cross over to the other side.' And leaving the crowd behind they took him, just as he was, in the boat; and there were other boats with him. Then it began to blow a gale and the waves were breaking into the boat so that it was almost swamped. But he was in the stern, his head on the cushion, asleep. They woke him and said to him, 'Master, do you not care? We are going down!' And he woke up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, 'Quiet now! Be calm!' And the wind dropped, and all was calm again. Then he said to them, 'Why are you so frightened? How is it that you have no faith?' They were filled with awe and said to one another, 'Who can this be? Even the wind and the sea obey him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



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Breaking Open the Word

JESUS' SAVING PRESENCE

For the people of Israel, the creation of the world was the act of bringing order where there had been chaos. Like other peoples of the ancient near east, they believed that the primary symbol of all that was uncontrolled and beyond our power was that of the ocean and darkness. Job speaks of how it is God who marks out the limits of the waters that would engulf humanity, waters that once were given their sway in the flood. The act of creation is one where chaos is forced to retreat, where God's creative and ordering power gives us a place where we can live in safety. The story of Jesus calming the storm on the lake was to become a powerful means for early Christians to express their belief in Jesus as sharing in this creative power of God. The disciples are brought face to face with their desperate need for the saving presence of their Master. It is Jesus' powerful word that now brings peace where a storm raged and threatened to overcome them.

Paul is overwhelmed, not by storms and waves that would engulf him, but by the love of God which has been poured into our hearts in Jesus. He has come to see in Jesus' life given for us the means by which we are brought into a new creation. Jesus is the one who has overcome all that would keep us from being truly alive. In the face of his boundless and creative love, even the power of death is bowed and silenced.

Christopher Monaghan CP

THE SAVING WORD

TWELVETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / B

20 JUNE 2021

FIRST READING

Job 38: 1, 8-11

A reading from the book of Job.

Here I have set the boundaries of the sea.

From the heart of the tempest the Lord gave Job his answer. He said: Who pent up the sea behind closed doors when it leapt tumultuous out of the womb, when I wrapped it in a robe of mist and made black clouds its swaddling bands; when I marked the bounds it was not to cross and made it fast with a bolted gate? Come thus far, I said, and no farther: here your proud waves shall break.

The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 106: 23-26, 28-31. R. v. 1

R. Give thanks to the Lord, his love is everlasting. (or Alleluia!)

- 1. Some sailed to the sea in ships / to trade on the mighty waters. / These men have seen the Lord's deeds, / the wonders he does in the deep. R.
2. For he spoke; he summoned the gale, / tossing the waves of the sea / up to heaven and back into the deep; / their soul melted away in their distress. R.
3. Then they cried to the Lord in their need / and he rescued them from their distress. / He stilled the storm to a whisper: / all the waves of the sea were hushed. R.
4. They rejoiced because of the calm / and he led them to the haven they desired. / Let them thank the Lord for his love, / the wonders he does for men. R.



SECOND READING

2 Cor 5: 14-17

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

All things are made new.

The love of Christ overwhelms us when we reflect that if one man has died for all, then all men should be dead; and the reason he died for all was so that living men should live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised to life for them.

From now onwards, therefore, we do not judge anyone by the standards of the flesh. Even if we did once know Christ in the flesh, that is not how we know him now. And for anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 7: 16

Alleluia, alleluia!

A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people. Alleluia!