

Parish Meeting Prayers

For use in June, 2021

Introduction

Leader Our lives are filled with stormy and frightening experiences. Trusting God, we can face the difficulties with stillness and calm.

Opening Prayer

All God of confidence and courage, increase our trust in your promises. When the storms we face threaten to overwhelm us, be our strength and security. We thank you for the fulfillment of your promises in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Word of God Mark 4:35-41

Reader A reading from the Gospel of Mark: *(The reading is on the reverse side.
Pause for silent reflection.)*

Optional: Discuss these questions in two's or three's.

1. How are the gifts of faith and trust in God related? Give an example from a "storm" in your life?
2. How could you respond to a person of faith whose fears were paralyzing him or her?

Response

Side 1 "A violent squall came up and waves were breaking over the boat."

Side 2 When times seem overwhelming, just like that squall, we can turn to Jesus for help.

Side 1 "Jesus was in the stern, asleep on a cushion."

Side 2 What a touching detail, reminding us that we can relate to Jesus as human. Jesus is God's gift to us.

Side 1 "He asked them, 'Why are you terrified? Do you not yet have faith?'"

Side 2 Could Jesus say the same to us today? We pray for the gift of faith, especially in fearful times.

Petitions Individuals add intentions to remember here.

Closing Prayer

All Loving God, our Father, thank you for hearing our prayers. Strengthen and calm us when we need your reassuring love. Thank you for the gift of Jesus. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

A Reading from the Gospel of Mark

On that day, as evening drew on, Jesus said to his disciples:

“Let us cross to the other side.”

Leaving the crowd, they took Jesus with them in the boat
just as he was.

And other boats were with him.

A violent squall came up and waves were breaking over the boat,
so that it was already filling up

Jesus was in the stern, asleep on a cushion.

They woke him and said to him,

“Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?”

He woke up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea,

“Quiet! Be still!”

The wind ceased and there was great calm.

Then he asked them, “Why are you terrified?

Do you not yet have faith?”

They were filled with great awe and said to one another,

“Who then is this whom even wind and sea obey?”