

Church of the Divine Love

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PROPER 7

JUNE 20, 2021

10:15 A.M.

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn #492 – Sing, ye faithful

Opening Acclamation page 355

Collect for Purity page 355

Gloria (S-280 in hymnal) page 356

Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

First Lesson: **Job 38:1-11**

Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32

Second Lesson: **2 Corinthians 6:1-13**

Gradual Hymn #493, vs 1-3 – O for a thousand tongues to sing

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

Sermon – The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze

Nicene Creed page 358

Prayers of the People, Form VI page 392

The Peace

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn – #535 – Ye servants of God

The Great Thanksgiving:

Eucharistic Prayer A page 361

Sanctus (S-130 in hymnal) page 362

The Lord's Prayer page 364

The Breaking of the Bread

page 364

The Communion of the People

Communion Hymn – **God is Love** (sung by Mol Kikoler)

Post Communion Prayer

page 365

Dismissal Hymn #559 – **Lead us, heavenly Father**

Dismissal.

Sermon Sunday June 20, 2021

Job 38: 1-11 ; Psalm 107: 1-3, 23-32; 2 Corinthians 6: 1-13; Mark 4: 35-41

May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock, and my redeemer. Amen.

Today is Father's Day. Father's Day is a celebration to honor the fathers of the world, fatherhood, paternal bonds, and the vital role fathers play in society. It's a day dedicated to fathers so that we can appreciate all the hard work they do. Let's applaud the fathers!

Have you ever tried to get away from the storms of life, only to find that they have followed you? If so, you can understand what happened in Mark 4:35-41. Jesus needed to get away from the crowds. We are tempted to follow the crowd, but we need to carefully consider public opinion and walk away when popular opinion isn't faithful to God's word. We need to walk away from the crowd so we can spend time alone with God. What scares you? I mean, what really, really frightens you? Can you remember a time in your life, some moment when you were more frightened than you've ever been at any other time in your life? What was it that caused that fear? How did you feel? More importantly, how did you respond?

Let me provide some context to this passage. Jesus has just finished a long day of teaching by the Sea of Galilee. He has been teaching about the kingdom of God in parable, illustrative stories woven through with imagery from everyday Jewish farm life. These parables speak of how the kingdom of God comes like a farmer sowing seed, or like a mustard seed, planted small, but over time growing into a large plant that offers shade even to the birds of the air. But, after a long day of such teach, Jesus had grown tired. Who among us wouldn't have? And so, after evening had come, Jesus and his disciples begin to cross to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. But the calm after a long day doesn't last. Soon, a great and violent windstorm arose, the type of which the Sea of Galilee was well known for.

This is not just a story about the weather and a boat trip. It is a story about life. It's a story about faith. It's a story about fear. Wherever you find one of those you will find all three. They cannot be separated. Sometimes the sea of life is rough. The wind is strong. The waves are high. The boat is taking on water and sinking. We all know what that is like. Each of us could tell a storm story. Some of our stories will begin with a phone call, a doctor's visit, or news we did not want to hear. Some of them will start with the choices we have made, our mistakes, and our sins. Other stories will tell about the difficulty of

relationships, hopes, and plans that fell apart, or the struggle to grow up and find our way. Some storms seem to arise out of nowhere and take us by surprise. Other storms build and brew as we watch. Storms happen. Storms of loss and sorrow. Storms of suffering. Storms of confusion. Storms of failure. Storms of loneliness. Storms of disappointment and regret. Storms of depression. Storms of uncertainty and second guessing, Storms of thoughts and voices.

Regardless of when or how they arise storms are about changing conditions. Life is overwhelming and out of control. Things don't go our way. Circumstances seem too much for us to handle. Order gives way to chaos. We are sinking. The water is deep, and the new shore is a distant horizon. The disciples are quick to make the storm about Jesus. "Do you not care that we are perishing?" We've probably all echoed their words in the storms of our lives. Do something. Fix it. Make it better. In the midst of the storm Jesus seems absent, passive, uncaring. How can he sleep at a time like this? Sleeping Jesus is not what they or we want. Sleeping Jesus, however, is in the same boat and the same storm as the disciples. He is surrounded by the same water as the disciples, blown by the same wind, beaten by the same waves. His sleep reveals that the greater storm and the real threat is not the wind, waves, and water around us, the circumstances in which we find ourselves, but within us. That interior storm is the one that blows us off course, beats against our faith, and threatens to drown us. Fear, vulnerability, and powerlessness blow within us. The sense of abandonment, the unknown, judgment and criticism of ourselves and others are the waves that pound us. Too often anger, isolation, cynicism, or denial become our shelter from the storm.

"Peace! Be still!" Jesus speaks to the wind and the sea. Jesus isn't changing the weather as much as inviting the disciples to change. He's speaking to the wind and the waves within them. The disciples have been pointing to what is going on outside them. Jesus now points to what is going on inside them. "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" Jesus' words are more about us than the circumstances of our lives, the storms we meet. Storms happen. Faith, more faith, better faith, stronger faith, the right kind of faith do not eliminate the storms of our lives. Faith does not change the storm. It changes us. Faith does not take us around the storm but through the storm. Faith allows us to see and know that Jesus is there with us. Faith is what allows us to be still, to be peaceful, in the midst of the storm. It means we do not have to interiorize the storm. But what Jesus was most concerned about was not the storm but the fear of his disciples. This fear revealed a lack of trust, faith, in their sovereign God. Jesus' mission on earth was to convince his people that God is sovereign over all creation. And if we truly believe this then all of our fears will melt away. Fear is a powerful emotion. We have all dealt with it. Fear of loss, fear of unknown. Fear of pain, fear of death, fear of a hostile world. Fear can either motivate us to act or it can paralyze us.

The Spirit of God blows through and within us more mightily than the winds of any storm. The power of God is stronger than any wave that beats against us. The love of God is deeper than any water that threatens to drown us. In every storm Jesus is present and his response is always the same, "Peace! Be still!" In every storm there are choices to be made. Will we interiorize the storm or Jesus' peace? Do we put our faith in the power of the storm or in the power of God in Christ?

Let's pray.

Lord Jesus, as you settled the storm that day with your disciples, settle the storms of our lives. Help the leaders of the world to find peace. Help us to find hope as we face difficulties. And we praise you and honor you as our Lord and King. Amen.

4 PENTECOST

10:15 AM HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II (also on zoom)

MONDAY

8:00 AM AA MEETING

WEDNESDAY

7:00 PM AL-ANON MEETING

THURSDAY

10AM-2PM THRIFT SHOP

8:00 PM AA MEETING

SATURDAY

10AM-2PM THRIFT SHOP

5 PENTECOST

10:15 AM HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II (also on zoom)

LOOKING AHEAD – Summer services will be held at **9AM** beginning Sunday July 4th.

SUPPORT THE FOOD DRIVE DROP-OFF IN THE KITCHEN

Two cemetery plots for sale by owner. Must be a parishioner to be buried there. \$2000 each. Contact Bob Gilbon 845-399-0945, or bob.gilbon@gmail.com.

Prayer for Grace and Favor:

Dear God, we ask that you provide for our needs, we ask for your grace and favor. We pray for your blessings to cover us; we pray that you would help us to prosper and make every plan that you have birthed in our heart to succeed.

We pray that others would take notice of your goodness and could not help but say, "these are the ones that the Lord has blessed." Shine your light in us, through us.

May we make a difference in this world, for your glory and purposes. Set your way before us. May all your plans succeed. We may reflect your peace and hope to a world that so desperately needs your presence and healing. In Jesus Name, Amen.

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Vera & Jose	Francisco Febres
Arlene Goodenough	Charlotte H.
Frances & Donna Mongelli	Bernie Walther
Nathan Treadwell	Irene
John Loubengeiger	Kim
Chris Dickson	Mo (Rachael)
Michael Echevarria	Warren
Del	Bill Conklin
Michael & Family	Anthony Paribello
Martinisi Family	Edward Lent & Family
Lois Kessler	Kate Jones
Kathleen	Barbara Curran
Girard Bishop	Christopher and his family
Franklin Tenesaca	Ciara
Aidan	Gabriel