

Mark 6 <sup>45</sup>Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. <sup>46</sup>After saying farewell to them, he went up on the mountain to pray.

<sup>47</sup>When evening came, the boat was out on the sea, and he was alone on the land. <sup>48</sup>When he saw that they were straining at the oars against an adverse wind, he came towards them early in the morning, walking on the sea. He intended to pass them by. <sup>49</sup>But when they saw him walking on the sea, they thought it was a ghost and cried out; <sup>50</sup>for they all saw him and were terrified. But immediately he spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." <sup>51</sup>Then he got into the boat with them and the wind ceased. And they were utterly astounded, <sup>52</sup>for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.

I always like to think about Jesus praying. Dietrich Bonhoeffer said that the psalms are Christ praying with us and for us, so maybe he was praying the psalms. Jesus had this connection with God the Father that we long to have, that indeed Jesus promises us when he prays that we be one as the Father and He are one.

Sometimes we think that it might be easier to be these disciples because they got to see these miracles firsthand and yet they don't get it any better than we often do. Even when we and the disciples themselves do not fully understand, we know that the wind will cease when Jesus gets into the boat with us.

Jesus says to us as he said to the disciples," *"Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."*

Let us pray, Lord we ask that you get into the boat with us in this difficult time and calm the winds of our fears. Remind us that social distancing does not mean distance from you, for you are always near. Amen