

JUNE 24, 2018
FIFTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

taking† faith home

Jesus has the power to help in time of trouble.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Mark 4:35-41	Jesus calms the sea
Monday	Job 38:1-11	God's rebuke of Job
Tuesday	2 Corinthians 6:1-13	How Paul served God
Wednesday	Acts 27:13-38	Paul and the storm at sea
Thursday	Exodus 14:5-25	Parting of the Red Sea
Friday	Joshua 3:7-17	The Jordan River stops flowing
Saturday	Psalms 107:1-3, 23-32	God saves those in distress
Sunday	Mark 5:21-43	Jesus heals and raises to life

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?" **Mark 4:41 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, please replace our fears with faith; give us courage and keep us calm in times of trouble. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

For all we eat and all we wear; for daily bread and nightly care; for your good gifts to use and share; we thank you, Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God calm you when you are afraid. May you have faith to trust in God's love and care.



JUNE 24, 2018
HYMN OF THE WEEK
*Eternal Father, Strong
to Save*

taking† faith home

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Draw a picture or talk about a time you were afraid?
- The disciples were in a boat and afraid of a dangerous storm. They thought they might drown. Jesus was with them. How would you feel?
- How do you reach out to Jesus when you experience storms in life?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 4:35-41 and Psalm 107:28-31.

Find a container to represent a boat. Talk about or reflect on any worries or fears you may have today. Write these down and place them in your "boat." Pray that Jesus will calm your fears and help you to see and trust that he is with you in every storm, especially the worries and fears named in your "boat" today.

Pray: **God of creation and salvation, help us to see the storms before us, weather the storms within us, and seek shelter in the harbor of your safety and care. We pray to you through Jesus Christ who knows us, cares for us, and saves us. Amen.**

SERVICE

Even for Paul in the early church, there were tensions with the very people he cared for and ministered to with the love of Christ (2 Corinthians 6:1-13). Being a community of faith involves relationships that need to be grounded in prayer for one another, mutual love, and forgiveness. Pray for those in your faith community with whom you experience tensions or differences. Reach out to leaders in your community with words of appreciation, support, and prayer as together the community seeks to worship God and serve the needs of the world.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

It is easy while standing on land to forget how dangerous the open seas can be. Navy and merchant sailors, commercial fishermen, and even those sailing or motoring on the open water for pleasure can quickly be reminded of the power and danger of stormy weather. The waters of the sea and of baptism are life giving and life taking (Romans 6:3-4). This week place a bowl of water in front of you to remember not only your baptism but the raw power of water, especially for those at sea. Dip your finger into the water, make the sign of the cross on your forehead, giving thanks to God for the life-giving waters of baptism, and then pray verse one of *Eternal Father, Strong to Save*: **Eternal Father, strong to save, whose arm has bound the restless wave, who bade the mighty oceans deep its own appointed limits keep: oh, hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea.**

