

Sunday 23rd June 2024

Fourth Sunday after Trinity



A really exciting gospel story today – and one that teaches us more about our faith.

How do you think you would have felt if you had been one of Jesus's disciples in the boat that day when the storm blew up? Let's use our imaginations:

Imagine being in the boat, perhaps desperately trying to take down the torn sails and bail out the water, with waves crashing over the side and everyone panicking. Where is Jesus? Is he panicking? Is he rushing about on board the boat?

No, Jesus is asleep! Can you believe it? How does that make you feel? Can you imagine the disciples arguing about whether to wake him up and who should be the one to do it? Maybe you are the one to wake Jesus?

Now imagine Jesus standing up and stilling the storm. How do you think his voice sounded when he did this? Loud and forceful? Or gentle and calm? How does it make you feel to be in the presence of such power over natural forces?

How do you feel when you hear Jesus asking why you were afraid? Are you reassured or puzzled by his words about having faith?

It can be very hard for us to trust in God when things in our lives become stormy. How does it feel to be “caught in a storm”, not just literally, but when things in our lives become difficult, with arguments and cross words among family or friends, or in the face of illness and pain, mental health issues, or other difficulties we struggle to work through?

When this happens, it can help us to remember the story of Jesus calming the storm. If we can recognise something difficult that is happening in our lives as a storm, we can imagine being in the boat with Jesus and asking him to calm the storm for us.

He is always alongside us, but sometimes we need to remember that and ask him, as his disciples did, to speak words of peace into our storms.



A prayer for this week:

When there is rough weather ahead we turn to you, O God. Thank you for always being with us to still our storms and give us your peace. Amen.

Jesus Calms the Storm

Complete the paragraph by filling in the blanks with the correct words from the word bank at the bottom of the story.



That day when evening came, he said to his _____, "Let us go over to the other side." Leaving the _____ behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the _____. There were also other boats with him. A furious squall came up, and the _____ broke over the boat, so that it was nearly _____. Jesus was in the stern, _____ on a cushion. The disciples _____ him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we _____?"

He got up, rebuked the _____ and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely _____.

Mark 4:35-39 (NIV)

boat
calm

crowd
disciples

drown
sleeping

swamped
waves

wind
woke

Jesus Calms the Storm

Find as many words as you can in the letters below. Go from left to right.

STORMSEASTILLOBEYWINDISHIPAWAKEPEACE

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| 1. <u>STORM</u> | 14. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 15. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 16. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 17. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 18. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 19. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 20. _____ |
| 8. _____ | Super Word Finder! |
| 9. _____ | 21. _____ |
| 10. _____ | 22. _____ |
| 11. _____ | 23. _____ |
| 12. _____ | 24. _____ |
| 13. _____ | 25. _____ |



