

MARK 4:35-41

With the coming of evening, Jesus said to his disciples, 'Let us cross over to the other side.' And leaving the crowd behind they took him, just as he was, in the boat; and there were other boats with him. Then it began to blow a gale and the waves were breaking into the boat so that it was almost swamped. But he was in the stern, his head on the cushion, asleep. They woke him and said to him, 'Master, do you not care? We are going down!' And he woke up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, 'Quiet now! Be calm!' And the wind dropped, and all was calm again. Then he said to them, 'Why are you so frightened? How is it that you have no faith?' They were filled with awe and said to one another, 'Who can this be? Even the wind and the sea obey him.'

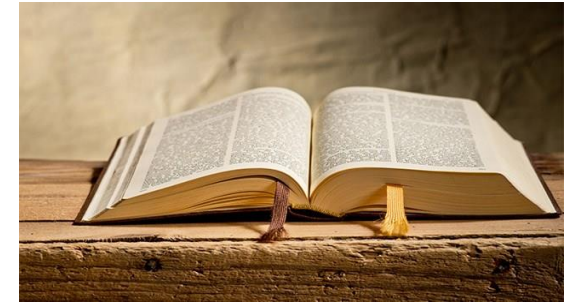
COMMENTARY: 'Life is difficult' says W. Scott Peck in *The Road Less Travelled*. He then goes on to say that many think life shouldn't be difficult and so end up fighting all the way. Then, those who accept this truth and face their difficulties rise above them.

We may wonder what the above paragraph has to do with this gospel. Peck's words are very wise but there is another dimension that needs to be added, which is: God is with you. Begin there when troubles arise. Worrying and panic will change nothing.

Liturgy of The Word

23.6.24

12th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Give thanks to the Lord, his love is everlasting

Some sailed to the sea in ships
to trade on the mighty waters.
These men have seen the Lord's deeds,
the wonders he does in the deep.

For he spoke; he summoned the gale,
tossing the waves of the sea
up to heaven and back into the deep;
their souls melted away in their distress.

Then they cried to the Lord in their need
and he rescued them from their distress.
He stilled the storm to a whisper:
all the waves of the sea were hushed.

JOB 38:1,8-11

From the heart of the tempest the Lord gave Job his answer. He said:

“Who pent up the sea behind closed doors
when it leapt tumultuous out of the womb,
when I wrapped it in a robe of mist
and made black clouds its swaddling bands;
when I marked the bounds it was not to cross
and made it fast with a bolted gate?
Come thus far, I said, and no farther:
here your proud waves shall break.”

COMMENTARY: The story of Job provides us with a time for self-examination. For him, life has been good. He praises God, is grateful and he is full of wisdom. But then the devil tells God it is only because he is so blessed that he is so righteous. He tells God to send him some troubled times. So the story begins.

Chapter 38 is almost at the end of the story. Job has struggled. He has cursed the day of his birth but he hangs on. Then in the above text and the rest of the book, it seems to really dawn on him. Give up fighting against that which you can do nothing about. Surrendering to God is a realistic task if we want to maintain our peace.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:14-17

The love of Christ overwhelms us when we reflect that if one person has died for all, then all should be dead; and the reason Jesus died for all was so that living people should live no longer for themselves, but for Christ who died and was raised to life for them.

From now onwards, therefore, we do not judge anyone by the standards of the flesh. Even if we did once know Christ in the flesh, that is not how we know him now. And for anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here.

COMMENTARY: Whatever challenges we are presented with in today's world, it is because of what is proclaimed in this reading. We are a new creation in Christ, and so we must live it.

We can ask ourselves here: How does this reading apply to issues like:

Racism

Poverty

War

Climate change

Migration?

What other issues face us today?