

JUNE 20, 2021
FOURTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



JUNE 20, 2021
HYMN OF THE WEEK
Shepherd Me, O God



Jesus listens to and calms our fears.

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	Psalms 46:1-11	God is our refuge
Thursday	Genesis 17:15-21	Abraham and Sarah
Friday	Isaiah 41:1-10	Israel's assured of God's help
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

But [Jesus] was in the stern, asleep on the cushion, and [the disciples] woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" Mark 4:38 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of wind and seas, help us to trust in your power and steadfast love that we may give you praise and serve our neighbor in love through Christ Jesus. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Living God, we thank you for this gift of food, a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you be filled with awe at the power and love of God.

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Tell or think about a time you were scared.
- When do you think of God more, during good times or bad times? Explain.
- The sea with its awesome views and power is like a parable of how life is filled with both beauty and danger. Where do you see beauty and danger in life? In faith?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 4:35-41.

The disciples are beside themselves with fear. The wind is howling; the waves are crashing over their little boat in a large and churning sea. It seemed like the end for them all. They wake up Jesus with a chorus of screaming cries, "Don't you care that we are going to die?" Jesus describes this as an example of having no faith. After noting their serious limitations as disciples, he calms the wind and the sea. At this point in the story, Jesus exits the discussion and the disciples simply marvel at the power of their teacher. This is the scene of the life of faith. It, too, is a kind of parable, the kind that Jesus had just told his followers. A living and real faith is like being on the waters and vacillating between sheer fear and trembling and simple awe. Although the full breadth of faith experiences from disbelief to true adoration is hard to fathom, it is the life we live. Jesus knows this; Jesus accepts this; Jesus leads us from valley lows to mountain highs with the same understanding, love, and saving grace. When have you experienced serious doubts in your faith? When have you experienced the pure joy of being a follower of Jesus?

Pray: **Almighty God, we thank you for your mercy that cares for us day and night with power and grace through Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

The disciples were afraid in the stormy, churning sea. The oceans provide food for billions of people. Catching large numbers of fish can be an exhausting and dangerous job. Pray for those who work on the seas including those who fish as well as those who provide security as part of the Coast Guard and Navy.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

This Sunday is Father's Day. It is an opportunity to honor all men who have cared for you and others as well. Take time to talk about and give thanks for the lives of all men who parent or otherwise care for and protect our children. Conclude by praying: **Dear God, we thank you for fathers and all men who care for and protect us. We especially give thanks for [names of men] who have been a blessing to our lives. Amen.**