

## Sunday, June 24

First Reading

[Job 38:1-11](#)

Psalm

[Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32](#)

Second Reading

[2 Corinthians 6:1-13](#)

Gospel

[Mark 4:35-41](#)

### OPENING PRAYER

O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth shall  
proclaim your praise.  
Glory to the Father,  
and to the Son and to  
the Holy Spirit: as it  
was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be  
forever. Amen.

### CLOSING PRAYER

O God, you have  
called your servants  
to ventures of which  
we cannot see the  
ending, by paths as  
yet untrodden,  
through perils  
unknown. Give us  
faith to go out with  
good courage, not  
knowing where we go,  
but only that your  
hand is leading us  
and your love  
supporting us;  
through Jesus Christ  
our Lord. Amen.

Additional prayer ideas  
on Page 2.

### Mark 4:35-41

<sup>35</sup>Later that day, when evening came, Jesus said to them, "Let's cross over to the other side of the lake." <sup>36</sup>They left the crowd and took him in the boat just as he was. Other boats followed along.

<sup>37</sup>Gale-force winds arose, and waves crashed against the boat so that the boat was swamped. <sup>38</sup>But Jesus was in the rear of the boat, sleeping on a pillow. They woke him up and said, "Teacher, don't you care that we're drowning?"

<sup>39</sup>He got up and gave orders to the wind, and he said to the lake, "Silence! Be still!" The wind settled down and there was a great calm. <sup>40</sup>Jesus asked them, "Why are you frightened? Don't you have faith yet?"

<sup>41</sup>Overcome with awe, they said to each other, "Who then is this? Even the wind and the sea obey him!"

### I WONDER

- I wonder what it was like to be in such a great storm.
- I wonder why Jesus stayed asleep for so long.
- I wonder how the wind felt when it was blowing the sea. I wonder how the sea felt being wild and rough. I wonder why the wind and the seas obeyed Jesus. I wonder how the seas feel being calm.
- I wonder how the disciples feel now. I wonder why the disciples keep following Jesus.
- I wonder if you have ever been in a great storm and needed Jesus to say "Peace."

### SLOW DEVOTIONS

On page 3 you can find a copy of the painting, "Christ and the Disciples on a Raging Sea", by Eugene Delacroix. (you can also see it at <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=48068>. Look at it closely.

- What do you see?
- What are each of the disciples doing? What might they be thinking? (Note what the text says about how they feel during the storm)
- How can Jesus sleep through that?

### ACTIVE DEVOTIONS

This is a great story to act out. You can be the disciples working hard to keep the boat going, Jesus who is asleep in the boat on a cushion, the wind swirling around and blowing hard, or the waves going up and down. (If it's a hot day and you are outside, you could even add water!)

When Jesus says, "Silence, be still! (How might he say that?), everyone stops and finds a way to be calm.

You can finish the skit (or multiple versions of the skit) by learning by heart the words, "Who is this? Even the wind and seas obey him!"

# Going Deeper

## PRAY A NEW WAY

**Beach ball prayer:** Select someone to start the prayer. Holding the ball, the leader says, “**Dear Lord, You give us so many reasons to praise you. We thank you for this time together. We thank you for sending us your son to guide and walk with us. And we thank you for ...**” The leader tosses the ball to someone in the group, who shouts out the first thing that pops into their head and then tosses the ball to another. Keep tossing the ball until everyone has shared — keep going if the group wants!

**Leader-led prayer:** Select a leader. Each member of the group shares their prayer request with the group. This can be done at the start of the devotion time or the end. The leader takes notes and includes the requests in the closing prayer. (This is a great way to teach kids to be comfortable with making up their own prayers.)

**Praying with posture:** Follow your heart’s lead to pray with mind and body. You can use the prayer below or say your own.

- Kneeling
- Sitting
- Standing
- Bowing
- Lying prostrate (face-down and flat)
- Hands up

**O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## A Raging Sea

In the first century, people believed in a three-level universe. The earth was flat. Beneath it was the underworld (not to be confused with hell) and above it was the dome of the heavens (or sky). The whole thing was surrounded by water. In this universe, when it rained, God opened the “windows of the heavens” to let the water in. A wild and raging sea was a sign that the waters surrounding the world were breaking through (see Gen 7:11). Only God kept the waters in check. If this is true, being on a raging sea is more akin to taking a space walk than an everyday occurrence.

Knowing this, take a look at:

Vs. 37-38. Notice that there is nothing about the disciples being afraid. They are trying to handle it themselves. -- Do you have trouble asking for help - even from Jesus?

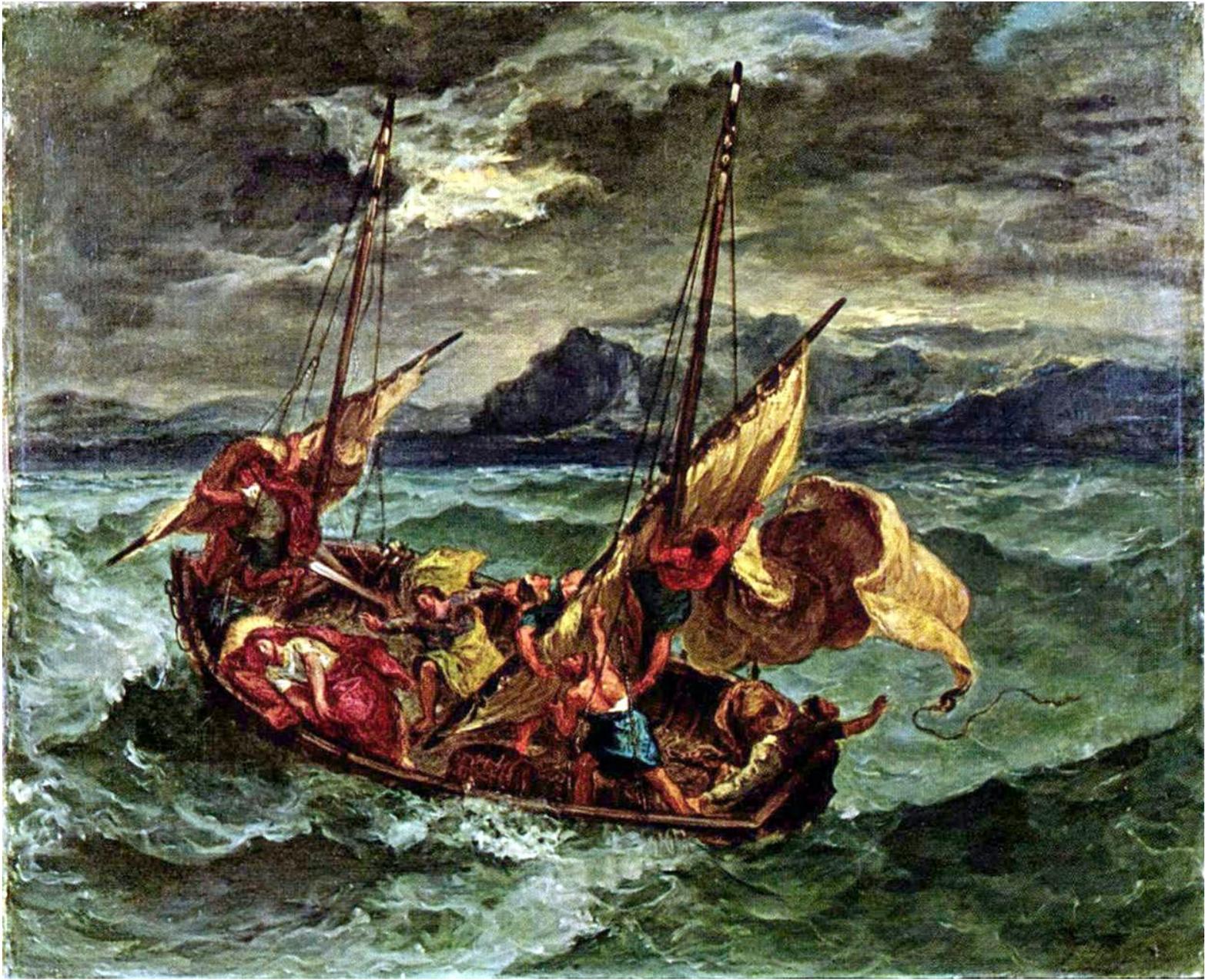
Vs. 38. The word translated drowning actually means “to perish, to be lost or destroyed.” The disciples are saying something like, “don’t you care that our world is ending?” Have you ever felt like everything was “going down,” like the world was ending? What did you pray?

Vs. 41. The disciples say, “Who is this, that the wind and sea obey him.” Have you ever seen an event so amazing or sacred that you could only say, “God was in this?”

## ANYTIME ACTIVITIES

- ★ [Pray and color](#)
- ★ [Gratitude photo hunt](#)
- ★ [Draw a mandala](#)
- ★ [Finger labyrinth](#)
- ★ [Create a Zen garden](#)

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Delacroix, Eugène, 1798-1863. Christ and the Disciples on a Raging Sea, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=48068> [retrieved June 15, 2018]. Original source: [www.yorckproject.de](http://www.yorckproject.de).