

**READINGS AND REFLECTION FOR THE 12<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME.**

**A READING FROM THE BOOK OF JOB 38:1, 8-11**

*Here I have set the boundaries of the sea.*

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.

**The Word of the Lord.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 106:23-26, 28-31**

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.

**GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, HIS LOVE IS EVERLASTING.**

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

**GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, HIS LOVE IS EVERLASTING.**

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.

**GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, HIS LOVE IS EVERLASTING.**

They rejoiced because of the calm and he led them to the haven they desired.  
Let them thank the Lord for his love, the wonders he does for men.

**GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, HIS LOVE IS EVERLASTING.**

**A READING FROM ST PAUL'S SECOND LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS 5:14-17**

*All things are made new.*

The love of Christ overwhelms us when we reflect that if one man has died for all,  
then all men should be dead; and the reason he died for all  
was so that living men should live no longer for themselves,  
but for him 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.

**The Word of the Lord**

A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people. Luke 7:16

**A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK 4:35-41**

*Who can this be? Even the wind and the sea obey him.*

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.'

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**REFLECTION:** from Michael Fallon MSC. [welcomeMichaelFallon.com](http://welcomeMichaelFallon.com) ([mbfallon.com](http://mbfallon.com))

Mark's wants his readers to be in close communion with Christ Risen who is actively present among them. Let us desire and pray that we will let Jesus mean to us what he meant to those who knew him and loved him.

Mark portrays Jesus venturing out into the sea, a Jewish symbol of chaos and evil. Jesus is unafraid; the disciples were terrified. This was relevant for Mark's audience and for all who are suffering persecution. Jesus rebukes the forces of evil.

Jesus contrasts faith not with doubt but with fear. Doubt can be the cutting edge of the mind seeking deeper insight. Such doubt can arise for a humble mind which recognizes the limits of its own understanding.

Fear reflecting small-mindedness can feed on doubt. We can ask if our fear is self-centred. Will it take us only to cynicism and despair? Let us not expect to understand everything; Jesus repeats, 'Do not be afraid!'. We may be powerless to prevent or to stop this fear. However, we are not powerless in how we can respond to it. In prayer, we are not powerless to respond to God's encouraging grace.

Some 'fear' can actually lead us to faith, hope and love. Our sense of the awe of God will arouse our profound respect for the wonder of God. As well, when we separate ourselves from God, we may be overwhelmed and know we have no option but to seek Him who alone can save us. Jesus may seem to be ignoring our cry. However, he is there with us 'in the boat'. He does care for us and he will set us free.