



St George's Anglican Church | Malvern

**Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
2015**

21 June

Sentence

Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him? *Mark*
4. 41



Collect

Saving God,
entering the flood and storm
of chaos and confusion:
speak peace to our fearful hearts
that we might find our faith
in him whose word brings rest to all creation:
through Jesus Christ, lord of wind and wave. **Amen.**

A Reading from the book of Job

The story of Job is a novel which addresses the enigma of innocent suffering and the good fortune of the wicked. Job is not 'patient' but persistent in his claim that he has suffered undeservedly. In this speech, God answers Job and shows humanity's limited understanding of God's supremacy over the whole creation. This reading is evoked in the story of Jesus calming the storm.

The LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind:
'Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?

Gird up your loins like a man,
 I will question you, and you shall declare to me.
 'Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?
 Tell me, if you have understanding.
 Who determined its measurements—surely you know!
 Or who stretched the line upon it?
 On what were its bases sunk,
 or who laid its cornerstone
 when the morning stars sang together
 and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?
 'Or who shut in the sea with doors
 when it burst out from the womb?—
 when I made the clouds its garment,
 and thick darkness its swaddling band,
 and prescribed bounds for it,
 and set bars and doors,
 and said, "Thus far shall you come, and no farther,
 and here shall your proud waves be stopped?"

Job 38.1-11

Reader For the word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

Psalm 107.1-3, 23-32 APBA page 337 at 10.00am

This psalm is thanksgiving for return from exile and praises God who delivers even from the stormy seas. Not being seafarers, the Hebrew people were afraid of the sea. The psalm draws our attention to today's gospel story.

Responsorial Psalm 107: 23-31

Andrew Moore

O give thanks to the Lord, for his love endures forever.

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| <p>1 Some sailed to the <u>sea</u> in ships to trade on the <u>mighty</u> waters. These have seen <u>the</u> Lord's deeds, the wonders he does <u>in</u> the deep.</p> | <p>3 Then they cried to the Lord <u>in</u> their need and he rescued them from <u>their</u> distress. He stilled the storm <u>to</u> a whisper: all the waves of the <u>sea</u> were hushed.</p> |
| <p>2 For he spoke; he <u>summoned</u> the gale. tossing the waves <u>of</u> the sea up to heaven and back <u>into</u> the deep; their soul melted away in <u>their</u> distress.</p> | <p>4 They rejoiced because <u>of</u> the calm and he led them to the haven <u>they</u> desired. Let them thank the Lord <u>for</u> his love the wonders he does <u>for</u> his people.</p> |

A Reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Paul is defending himself and his co-workers against the charge that they are imposters, by reciting the hardships he has endured in his journeys and argues that from the perspective of the new creation in Christ, they are true and trustworthy and invite trust and love in return.

As we work together with Christ, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says,

‘At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.’

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything. We have spoken frankly to you Corinthians; our heart is wide open to you. There is no restriction in our affections, but only in yours. In return—I speak as to children—open wide your hearts also. *2 Cor.6.1-13*

Reader May your word live in us.

ALL And bear much fruit to your glory.

Gospel Acclamation

ALL Alleluia! Alleluia!

Cantor Who then is this, that even
the wind and the sea obey him?
ALL Alleluia! Alleluia!
Reader The Lord be with you
ALL And also with you
Reader A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
ALL Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

The Sea of Galilee can still suddenly become dangerous but this story is about Jesus acting as God's agent and calming the storm. For the Jews, the sea and its power were symbols of evil and chaos. In Daniel, the sea is where monsters come from. The layers of symbolism are multiple – think of the Spirit brooding over the face of waters in creation, the passage through the Red Sea or Jonah running away to sea to escape God's commission. Notice that the opposite of faith is not doubt but fear.

When evening had come, Jesus said to his disciples, 'Let us go across to the other side.' And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great gale arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, 'Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?' He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, 'Peace! Be still!' Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, 'Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?' And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, who is this then, that even the wind and sea obey him?

Mark 4.35-51

Reader For the Gospel of the Lord
ALL Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

**Bible Readings next week 5th after Pentecost 28 June
2015**

Lamentations 3.22-33 Ps 30 2 Corinthians 8.7-15 Mark 5.21-43

Prayer for the Week

Almighty and everlasting God,
you are always more ready to hear than we to pray,

and give more than either we desire or deserve:
pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy,
forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid,
and giving us those good things which we are not worthy
to ask,
save through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ,
your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

Pray for the Faithful Departed

We remember before God: Colin Wilkinson, Noel Wil-
kinson, Nicholas Sanderson, Frederick Blundell Preston
Minchin, Ada Mavis Phillips, T Harvey Barnett, Myra
McSpedden, Brenda Dawson, Jill Slattery, Montolieu
(Mon) Russell *whose anniversaries occur this week.*

Commemorations of the week.

June 22 Alban, the first British martyr (d. c.209).
Few details are known about him. He was probably a pagan
soldier, who sheltered a priest and was converted and baptised
by him. He was arrested and martyred in the amphitheatre,
refusing to sacrifice to the gods. **June 24** The birth of **John the
Baptist**, forerunner to the Messiah. Recorded in Luke.1.5-
25, 57-80 where John is portrayed as Jesus' cousin, born to his
mother Mary's kinswoman Elizabeth in her old age. **June 27
Cyril of Alexandria, bishop and teacher (c.376-444).**
The most outstanding theologian produced by the See of
Alexandria.