

- Anyone who has endured a serious storm at sea can relate to the both the responsorial psalm and the Gospel, and knows the great power of the sea firsthand.
- *“His command raised up a storm wind which tossed its waves on high. They mounted up to heaven; they sank to the depths; their hearts melted away in their plight.”*
-
- When in the Marines, I was stationed aboard one of the old battleships brought out of mothballs by President Reagan (see kids, I AM old!).
- The ship was huge—58 thousand tons of steel and 1600 men. The main deck was almost a foot thick of solid steel.
- One time in the North Atlantic a nasty storm came up—the wind was whistling through the masts, the rain beating upon the decks... and the waves pounding against the ship.
- What had been a mild choppy sea soon became whitecaps...soon becoming mountains of water many stories high--rising and falling...and this 58,000 ton monster of a ship bobbing up and down like a cork...creaking and groaning...wind lashing against the portholes...things sliding off shelves and desks and tables... men slammed back and forth between bulkheads in the passageways.
- The bow of the ship, even normally 30 feet above the water, was lifted almost out of the water twice as high, then plunging to be almost submerged surface...over and over.
- There were prayers for deliverance that day on THAT ship, too.
-

- And yet...aren't our lives like that?
- Most of the time we're sailing pretty calm seas...but, inevitably in every life there are times when the skies darken, the storm comes up, the waves grow and pound against the ship of our life and our livelihood and security...and we have little recourse but to send prayers up to God for our deliverance, for events have spun out of our control.
- Regardless of planning, life tends to hand us what we least expect. As the poet said: "*The best laid plans of mice and men often go awry.*"
- Who of us who are older have not seen this?—relatives (or even ourselves) diagnosed with cancer or serious disease...accidents which severely injure or take a loved one from us...the birth of a child who is disabled.
- These waters are difficult to chart, and even more difficult to navigate...and there are often no warnings of the weather to come.
-
- The apostles were experienced fishermen who made their living on the sea, and yet still came something that overwhelmed them.
- And like the Apostles, don't we cry out in our troubles to God: "*Do you not care that we are perishing?*"
- But...also like the apostles...we have Christ in our boat.
- The Gospel says that he was asleep "in the stern" and on a cushion, which is where an honored guest would sit.
- And we, too, must make Christ the honored guest in the ship of our own lives.

-
- The test of a sailor is not calm seas, but stormy ones. Just so, our faith is not tested when things are good, but during distress and troubles.
- This earthly life is simply a sort of proving ground, so to speak, for eternity...to see if our faith and our love of God will overcome the trivial sorrows and pains we have in this life.
- Life reminds me of boot camp: it can be strenuous and taxing and even awful when you're in it...but, oh, the pride experienced on graduation day...knowing that you had the courage and endurance and resolve to "make it".
- Imagine, then, the pride and joy to have the angels and saints surrounding us on our "graduation day" into eternal life... displaying their own scars and bruises attesting to their struggles... witnessing Satan's fury at having "lost another one"...
- ...and then turning...seeing Jesus smiling, showing you His own pierced hands—the evidence of His trials...the Blessed Mother at His side in anticipation as only a mother can be...and the arms of the Father open to embrace you with the words: "*Come, my good and faithful child. From all eternity we have awaited you.*"
- But...in these, our short earthly lives, we must keep the rudder steady, and be strong in faith and trust, and follow where Christ leads us...for it is He who allows the winds to blow and the rain to fall to test the seamanship of our faith.
- And so, with Christ in our boat: "*Why are you afraid?*"
- ...because "*Who is this, that even wind and sea obey him?*"

- Finally...a last word for you fathers for Fathers' Day.
- Today you are rightfully honored for your role in the family—a role of leadership, of discipline, of providing, of teaching, of protecting, and of loving—your own role as shepherd of your family.
- But while you are basking in the honors and affection of your children and grandchildren, do a little introspection.
- Are you being the best father you can be? Are you teaching your children truly the way of God—the seamanship of faith with teaching and, more importantly, with the example of your lives.
-
- We priests are called “father” because we act—or are supposed to act—as spiritual fathers for Christ’s people.
- But you fathers (and mothers) are the daily and primary educators of your children; even the Church cannot take your place in that role.
- Education, career, etc...while serious in this life, are by far secondary in importance...for God will not ask us how many degrees we earned or what earthly honors we had, but simply how we have loved Him and our neighbor.
- And it is through your teaching and example that you are not only biological fathers, but much more importantly--spiritual fathers as well.
-
- And how is a man a good father?

- We have to only adapt slightly Paul's verses in 1 Cor 13:
 - *[A father] is patient, [a father] is kind; [a father] is not jealous or boastful; [a father] is not arrogant or rude.*
 - *[A father] does not insist on [his] own way; [a father] is not irritable or resentful; [he] does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right.*
 - *[A father] bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*
 - *So [a father's] faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is [a father's] love. (1Cor 13:13)*

-
- It is in these things, O fathers, that you truly shepherd your family well...and the father who sets this example for his children...who teaches them—and lives—the way of Jesus Christ...cannot then but be loved by the true and Almighty Father in heaven...
- ...so that, at the final setting of your days, you might hear those words from the throne: *“Well done, my good and faithful servant. Come and share your master's joy.”*

Reading 1

[Jb 38:1, 8-11](#)

The Lord addressed Job out of the storm and said:
Who shut within doors the sea,
when it burst forth from the womb;
when I made the clouds its garment
and thick darkness its swaddling bands?
When I set limits for it
and fastened the bar of its door,
and said: Thus far shall you come but no farther,
and here shall your proud waves be stilled!

Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 107:23-24, 25-26, 28-29, 30-31](#)

R. (1b) **Give thanks to the Lord, his love is everlasting.**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

They who sailed the sea in ships,
trading on the deep waters,
These saw the works of the LORD
and his wonders in the abyss.

R. **Give thanks to the Lord, his love is everlasting.**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

His command raised up a storm wind
which tossed its waves on high.
They mounted up to heaven; they sank to the depths;
their hearts melted away in their plight.

R. **Give thanks to the Lord, his love is everlasting.**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

They cried to the LORD in their distress;
from their straits he rescued them,
He hushed the storm to a gentle breeze,
and the billows of the sea were stilled.

R. **Give thanks to the Lord, his love is everlasting.**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

They rejoiced that they were calmed,
and he brought them to their desired haven.
Let them give thanks to the LORD for his kindness
and his wondrous deeds to the children of men.

R. **Give thanks to the Lord, his love is everlasting.**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

Reading II

[2 Cor 5:14-17](#)

Brothers and sisters:

The love of Christ impels us,
once we have come to the conviction that one died for all;
therefore, all have died.
He indeed died for all,
so that those who live might no longer live for themselves
but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

Consequently, from now on we regard no one according to the flesh;
even if we once knew Christ according to the flesh,
yet now we know him so no longer.
So whoever is in Christ is a new creation:
the old things have passed away;
behold, new things have come.

Gospel

[Mk 4:35-41](#)

On that day, as evening drew on, Jesus said to his disciples:
"Let us cross to the other side."
Leaving the crowd, they took Jesus with them in the boat just as he was.
And other boats were with him.
A violent squall came up and waves were breaking over the boat,
so that it was already filling up.
Jesus was in the stern, asleep on a cushion.
They woke him and said to him,
"Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?"
He woke up,
rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Quiet! Be still!"
The wind ceased and there was great calm.
Then he asked them, "Why are you terrified?
Do you not yet have faith?"
They were filled with great awe and said to one another,
"Who then is this whom even wind and sea obey?"