

Morning Prayer for Tuesday 30 June 2020

In the name of Christ, who died and was raised by the glory of the Father, welcome: grace, mercy and peace be with you.

And also with you.

We have come to the city of the living God **to the heavenly Jerusalem**, with thousands of angels in joyful assembly. **Alleluia!**

We have come to God the judge of all, **to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant** with thousands of angels in joyful assembly. **Alleluia.**

Lord, direct our thoughts, teach us to pray, lift up our hearts to worship you in Spirit and in truth, through Jesus Christ. Amen

Christ our Passover lamb has been offered for us. Let us then rejoice by putting away all malice and evil and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

O Jesus Christ, risen master and triumphant Lord, we come to you in sorrow for our sins, and confess to you our weakness and unbelief. We have lived by our own strength, and not by the power of your resurrection.

We have lived by the light of our own eyes, as faithless and not believing.

We have lived for this world alone, and doubted our home in heaven.

In your mercy, forgive us. Hear us and help us.

God who is both power and love, forgive us and free us from our sins, heal and strengthen us by his Spirit, and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Collect

God our saviour, look on this wounded world in pity and power: hold us fast to your promises of peace won for us by your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ

Bible Reading

Matthew 8:23-27 New International Version (NIV)

Jesus Calms the Storm

Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him. Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!" He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm. The men were amazed and asked, "What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!"

Thought for Today

Do you get scared of things? Not many things scare me, but I don't really like scary films anymore. Rachel is scared of snakes; my brother is scared of last 10 minutes of every Sheffield Wednesday match especially if they are 2:0 up. I laughed at him when he told me this but he said you should try and follow Sheffield Wednesday its truly terrifying. I have a friend who is scared of fish, and another who is afraid of clowns, many people are scared of spiders, mice, lifts and darkness. There is a lot out there that can scare us.

In today's reading we see Jesus get into a boat with his fishermen friends. They set sail and because Jesus had been busy the gentle rocking of the boat soon sent Jesus to sleep. Soon however the disciples found themselves in the midst of a terrible, violent and dangerous storm.



Let me remind you some of the disciples on the boat were fishermen. They knew all about sailing on a boat. They were happy when the water was nice and calm and peaceful. They could relax. But soon things began to change. The wind began to blow and the waves pushed the boat around. Soon it all turned into a very bad storm. The waves became so big that they were filling the boat with water. The storm became so violent that the men despite their years of experience, began to think that the boat would sink. They thought they might all drown.

They were so scared that they didn't know what to do apart from wake Jesus up and tell him that they were about to die.

The disciples had left everything to follow Jesus, and this passage reminds us that even the disciples who were with Jesus in person all the time got scared, anxious, worried and didn't know what to do.

Following Jesus brings no guarantee that we will not have storms in our lives – we can still face the storms of financial worries, emotional pain or difficulties, strained and broken relationships and of course not following Jesus as he commanded. People react to these difficulties in different ways, some will say 'I don't deserve it', others will put their head down and battle on. Jesus never promised a free and easy life if we follow him but He did say He would be with us in the storms.

In our reading we see that Jesus as He awoke, saw their panic and their cries for help and ordered the wind and the waves to be quiet

We have seen in our studies of Jesus that His words are enough to heal us and calm our fears. We can hear those same word of Jesus through reading the Bible, and through the words of encouragement from another follower of Jesus. We have a God that we can trust and rely on and our God is able to calm the storms in our own lives.



What is interesting that before Jesus calms the storm he asks them a question 'Why are you so frightened'. What was it about this storm that made hardened fishermen quake with fear.

But from such a place of negative fear, the disciples experienced a healthy fear as they asked each, - "what kind of man is this, even the winds and waves obey Him". the disciples are amazed and filled with an awe and reverence. This is a healthy fear, its not the fear of a dictator, but a fear of wanting to do what is right in the eyes of a holy God, it is ultimate respect knowing that a loving God asks for an attitude of worship and service.

This leads us away from trying to manipulate God. We accept God to be the God in our lives, humbly allowing Him to revel Himself to us.

Whatever the storm in your life at the moment, big or small, God is calling us to renew our trust in Him. Someone once prayed 'Lord give me such faith, that in the storm I do not need to wake you up.' After all, if the boat went down, Jesus would have gone down with them.

Jesus reminds us that we are all in the same boat and we need to have trust in Him at all times:

Psalms 46:10 says 'Be still and know I am God'

Let us remember that we follow the footsteps of Jesus, we follow him, we have nothing to fear in Life if we put our trust Him.

followed by silence for reflection

Let us stand and declare our faith in God.

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named. We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love. We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high. We believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.



Please sit or kneel for the Intercessions

Lord God, make your ways known upon the earth: **your saving power among all the peoples.**

Renew your Church in holiness: **and help us to serve you with joy.**
Guide the leaders of this and every nation: **that justice may prevail throughout the world.**

Let not the needy be forgotten: **nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

Make us instruments of your peace: **and let your glory be over all the world.**

Pour your healing power upon us; **and upon all those we love who are suffering at this time.**

As you sent your Son into the world: **so send us, to make your glory known. Amen.**

And now may the Father, whose glory fills the heavens, cleanse us by his holiness and send us to proclaim his word. The Son, who has ascended to the heights, pour upon us the riches of his grace. The Holy Spirit, the Comforter, equip us and strengthen us in our walk with Jesus. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, be amongst us and remain with us always Amen

Go in Peace to love and serve the Lord In the name of Christ. Amen.

