

# TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR B

## PRAYER OF THE DAY:

God,  
you made the world  
and all that is in it.  
We thank you  
for being good to us.  
Show us  
how to treat the plants  
and the animals,  
the people and our planet,  
as your special gift to us.  
By following Jesus,  
may we never misuse them  
but be happy  
that everything tells us  
something about you.  
We pray to you  
through Christ, our Lord.

*Note: In keeping with the Directory for Masses With Children (Paragraph 43), the authors have elected to use an alternate biblical excerpt instead of the first reading for the 12th Sunday of Ordinary Time because it seems best suited "to the capacity of children."*

## FOCUS OF THE READINGS:

The Gospel reading focuses on Jesus' power over nature. It is a continuation of Mark's revelation of the divine authority of Jesus. Jesus had healed the sick and cast out evil spirits. Mark tells us that "even the evil spirits obey him!" And here, "even the wind and water obey him!" The focus is not the actual calming of the storm but the power that is in Jesus because of who he is. When Jesus asks, "Why are you afraid? Don't you believe in me?" he questions their faith in him

## FIRST READING: *Genesis 1:1-2, 9-10*

*This is a reading from the book of Genesis.*

In the beginning,  
God created the heavens and the earth.  
There was nothing on the earth,  
and it had no shape.  
And the Spirit of God  
was moving like a wind over the waters.

And God said,

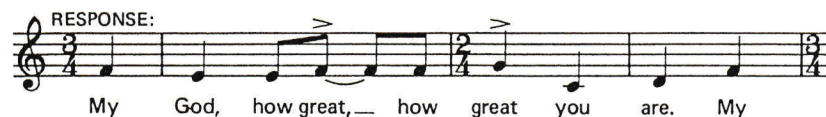
"Let all the waters be gathered into one place  
with dry land around it."

God called the dry land "earth"  
and the waters "seas."

And God saw that it was good.

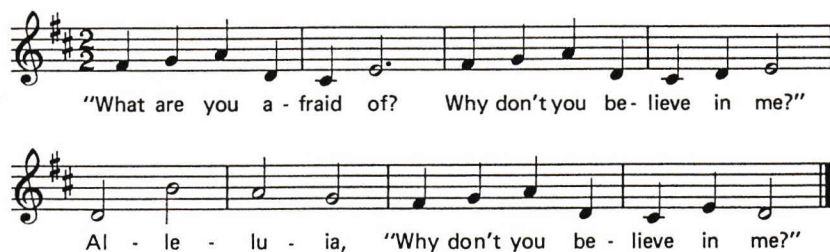
*The Word of the Lord.*

## RESPONSE: *Psalms 104*



1. You made the earth and set it in place.
2. You made the waters cover the earth.
3. You made the oceans, rivers and seas.
4. You made the rivers run from the hills.
5. Rain from the sky falls down on the earth.
6. All who are thirsty drink from the streams.
7. All of the earth is filled with your love.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:



## GOSPEL: *Mark 4:35-41*

*This is a reading from the Gospel of Mark.*

One evening while Jesus and his disciples were near the lake, he said to them,

“Let’s go now to the other side.”

While they were crossing the lake,  
a bad storm came up,  
and a strong wind  
washed the waves over the side of the boat.  
Soon the boat was nearly filled with water.

But Jesus was asleep on a pillow  
in the back of the boat.  
The disciples woke him and said,

“Don’t you care that we’re going to drown?”

So Jesus got up and commanded the wind  
and waves to stop, saying,

“Be still! Be quiet!”

Then Jesus said to his disciples,

“Why are you afraid?  
Don’t you believe in me?”

The disciples were shocked and amazed  
at what they had just seen Jesus do.  
They kept asking each other,

“Who is this man?  
Even the wind and the water obey him!”

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

before the action of calming of the storm. Did they not trust that all would be well simply because he was there? In other words, we are not to look to Jesus because he does miracles but because of who he is. His miracles are signs that point to a deeper reality. Mark calls us to a belief in the person of Jesus who has divine authority over everything. If we fail to see the deeper reality—the person of Jesus—we miss the point of his miracles.

The first reading from *Genesis* is a substitution for the reading from the book of *Job*. *Genesis* sets the stage for the Gospel story. (Such substitutions are in keeping with the guidelines in the *Directory for Masses with Children*.) God is the creator of water, and it is with this same divine power that Jesus controls the wind and water.

## REFLECTING ON THE READINGS WITH CHILDREN:

This Gospel should be read with drama, emphasizing the details. Ask the children to recall the story. After they have retold the story, ask them again what Jesus said to his disciples after he calmed the storm.

“Why are you afraid? Don’t you believe in me?”

Ask the children if they have ever experienced a storm. Were they afraid? Assure them that their fear is perfectly understandable but that we can learn to be less afraid when we know that Jesus will help us.

It is important that we not give children the impression that their natural fear of darkness, storms, water, or whatever, represents a lack of faith. (They are children, learning to trust in Jesus).

Lead them to see that “storm” can also mean “trouble” or “problems” in life. Let them discuss this, and lead them to see that Jesus is always with us and has the power to calm these storms too.

You might encourage the children to ask Jesus to “calm the storm inside of me” when they have problems or are worried about things.



## Twelfth Sunday of the Year

### Lord of wind and sea

#### INTRODUCTION

The Sea of Galilee is really a large freshwater lake which is approximately 12 miles long and 8 miles wide. Sometimes its calm blue waters are whipped into violent storms by sudden strong winds. One night, as Jesus and his disciples were sailing across the sea, such a storm suddenly began to rage.

#### SIGN OF THE CROSS

#### LIGHT THE CANDLES

As we light our candles today, let us remember the words of Jesus, who said:

I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will have the light of life and will never walk in darkness. (John 8:12)

#### SORRY

Ask a child to choose a "sorry color" so that the group can read the corresponding sorry prayer together.

#### GLORIA

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 4.

#### GOSPEL (MARK 4:35-41)

Jesus and his disciples set off to sail to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. Jesus had been preaching all day, and soon he was lulled to sleep by the rocking of the boat. Suddenly a storm blew up, and great waves began to pound the boat. The disciples were terrified and ran to waken Jesus before they all drowned. Jesus got up, and scolding the sea and wind, he said, "Be at peace!"

At once the wind dropped and the sea grew calm again. Then Jesus asked his disciples, "Why were you so afraid? Did you not believe in me?" They were filled with wonder because they had seen that even the sea and wind would obey his commands.

#### DISCUSSION

Imagine setting off in a small fishing boat, and suddenly finding yourself caught in a terrible storm. How would you feel? (Encourage the children to describe any experiences they might have of being in a boat.)

Violent storms can often blow up suddenly on the sea of Galilee, and although some of the disciples had spent much of their time sailing and catching fish, this storm was so bad that even they were afraid that they would all drown.

Today, people wear life jackets to keep them afloat if they fall in the water. They have radios and flares to call for help and they carry inflatable lifeboats which are ready to use quickly in an emergency. The disciples had none of these things!

In this time of fear and trouble, who did they turn to for help? They turned to Jesus, and he saw that they were afraid. What did Jesus do? He commanded the wind and the waves to be at peace, and to become calm once more.

In times of trouble or fear in our lives, we can always turn to Jesus and ask for his help. We believe that the power of Jesus can overcome all things, because he is the son of God. Just as Jesus calmed the storm, so he will bring peace and tranquility into our troubled lives.

#### ACTIVITY

Using the diagram as a guide, either use a sheet of newspaper or fold a square of colored paper to make a large model boat. Using modeling clay, ask the children to make figures of Jesus and the disciples to put into the boat. Add a large sail, and place the boat on strips of blue tissue paper to represent the stormy sea.

#### CREED

#### CLOSING PRAYER

The Lord says:

Do not be afraid

because I am always with you.

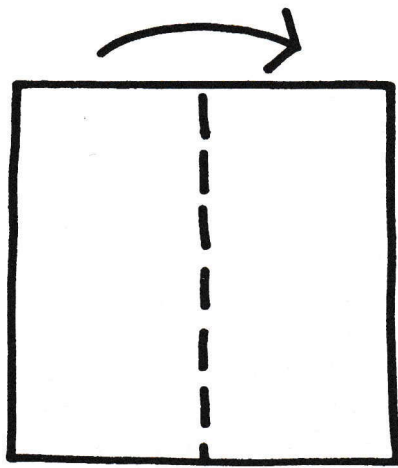
With me by your side

you have nothing to fear.

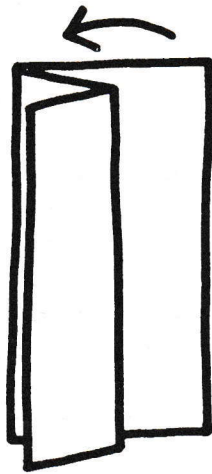
I will protect you from harm

and save you from danger.

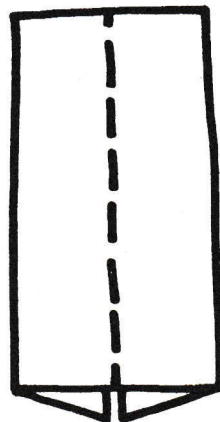
(Isaiah 41:10)



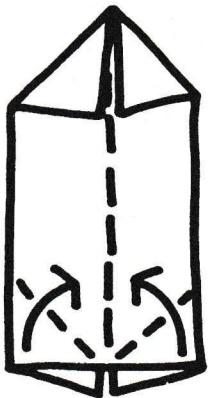
1. Fold square of paper in half.



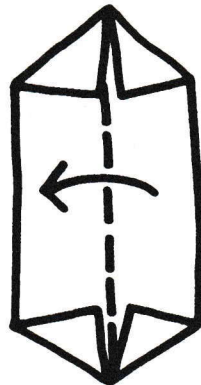
2. Fold edge of paper back to meet folded edge.



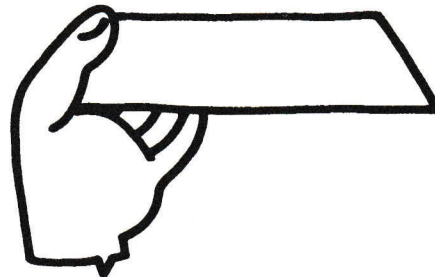
3. Turn paper over and repeat action. Then unfold paper.



4. Fold corners into middle crease.

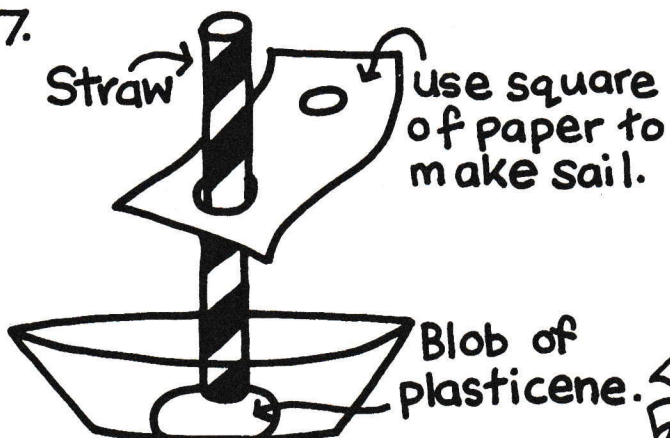


5. Fold right edge over to folded edge.

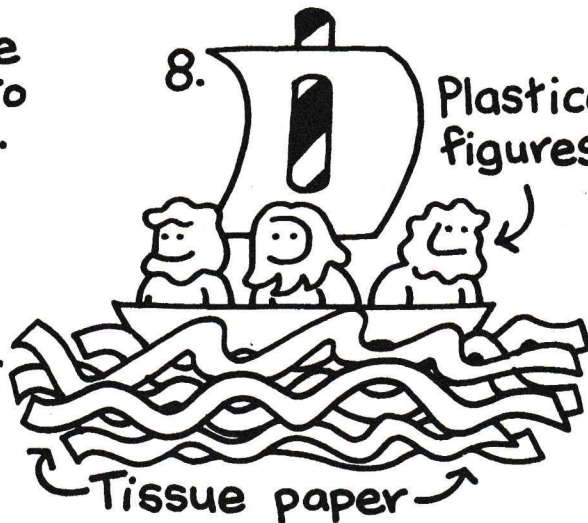


6. Put fingers inside and push corners down with thumbs to make boat 'stand'.

7.



8. Plasticene figures.





# Twelfth Sunday of the Year

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## Focus

A glass bowl filled with water (which could be coloured with food dye) with coloured beads, stones or pebbles at the bottom, and a small boat floating on the water. (Depending on the size of your display, you could have a small candle on an 'island' in the bowl. If you choose to use a floating candle, make sure that it poses no potential fire hazard with the boat you use!)

## Introduction

We know that God is almighty and all-powerful. He created the world and everything we know within our universe. Throughout the Old Testament there are many stories that tell of God's mighty power, but it was the Son of God who really allowed us to glimpse something of God's true glory and might!

## Gloria

## Gospel Acclamation

Light the Gospel candle and sing Acclamation 1.

## Gospel

A reading from the Gospel of St Mark (4:35-41)  
(See page 383.)

## Reflection

*Has anyone ever been in a boat? Was it large or small, and did it have an engine, a sail or oars?*

Some children might have experienced sailing in large sea-going ferries as they set off on holiday. Such an experience is very different from stepping aboard a small open boat much closer to the water!

*Why do we need to take great care when we are in or near a boat?*

Even though you might be able to swim, it is still possible to drown if you fall in water that is too deep to stand in. Sensible people always wear life jackets to help them to stay afloat if they accidentally fall in.

*What sort of boat were Jesus and his disciples in?*

They were sailing in a simple wooden fishing boat that probably wasn't very large.

*Where were they going?*

They set off to sail across the Sea of Galilee to the opposite shore to escape from the crowds of people for a while, in order to allow Jesus and his disciples a chance to rest.

*What happened as they crossed, and why weren't the disciples expecting it?*

The calm blue waters of the Sea of Galilee sometimes change to violent storms that blow up suddenly. The strong winds soon whip up large and frightening waves. Unlike fishermen of today, the disciples had no weather forecast to warn them that a ferocious storm was coming.

## *How did the storm make them feel?*

Even though they were experienced fishermen, they were still afraid of the power of the sea, and knew that they could drown if the waves swamped their small boat with water. They rushed to wake Jesus, who was so exhausted that he had managed to sleep through the commotion!

## *What did Jesus do?*

Jesus calmly stood up and commanded the wind and sea to be 'at peace' before asking the disciples, 'Did you not believe in me?' His disciples, who had witnessed Jesus doing many marvellous things, were completely amazed by this display of his almighty power. They believed what had seemed unbelievable, that Jesus had authority over nature itself.

## *What can this story teach us today?*

We should never forget that if we have faith in God's almighty power, then nothing is impossible, even if we seem to be asking him for the unbelievable.

## Activity

Using a variety of coloured paper, cut out boat and sail shapes together with rows of waves. These can be used to create a stormy collage by gluing them on to some coloured paper or card together with the words, 'Do not be afraid; believe in me.'

## Intercessions

As brothers and sisters in one loving family, together let us pray to our heavenly Father:

That the leaders of all governments and nations will uphold and respect the dignity and value of life.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

That lives wounded and scarred by fear and hatred can be rebuilt and healed through peace and reconciliation.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

That people who earn their living from the sea return home safely to their families and loved ones.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

That all who suffer stormy times in their lives may share Christ's peace.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Knowing that our heavenly Father is listening, in the silence of our hearts let us share our own unspoken prayers with him.

*Silence*

Loving Father,  
listen to the prayers  
of the family gathered here before you.  
Watch over and protect all your children  
and keep us close to your love.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

# BOAT AND WAVE TEMPLATE.

