

June 23, 2024

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time



# AWAKEN

Becoming Disciples of the Word

## Sunday's

### READINGS

Job 38:1, 8-11

2 Corinthians 5:14-17

Mark 4:35-41

Scan the code to read today's readings. ➔



## Opening PRAYER

*Jesus, you walk with us in our fear and suffering. Help us to be aware of the ways in which you are present to us so that we may grow in faith. Amen.*



## Thoughts for REFLECTION

What might be your answer to Jesus if he asked you, "Do you not yet have faith?"

Faith is a relationship. How do you deepen your relationship with Jesus?

*Awaken* is written and edited by Jo Ann Paradise, D.Min.



## What You NEED to KNOW

### Scripture Background

#### Job 38:1, 8-11

Who among us has not had the experience of doing all the right things, but still has everything go terribly wrong? We ask, "Why is this happening?" Job is a righteous man. He has been faithful to God's covenant. In his time, all the blessings that one received—a son, a good crop, a time of peace—were considered rewards for good behavior. If bad things happened—only having daughters, a drought, or other people trying to conquer one's land—they were the consequences of sin. Job's dilemma is this: He knows he has not sinned, yet he is repeatedly suffering horrific events. He cries out to God about this injustice. God tells Job to remember who created the sea. God created it. He placed it where he wants it to be. He even made the clouds to "clothe it." God wants Job to understand that his power is absolute. He alone will be the victor in any battle with evil.

#### 2 Corinthians 5:14-17

The first words of this reading are a window into the mind of Saint Paul. Paul applies the word *impels* to the effect of the love of Christ. While this word can mean

"urges" or "coerces," it can also mean "thrusts" or "propels." What can possibly thrust Christians to be evangelists in a world that persecuted them for their relationship to Christ? It is the love of Christ. Loving Christ was not a quiet assent. It was a passion that drove their thoughts and deeds. When a disciple experienced the love of Christ that reached its peak in the sacrifice of his life on the Cross, he no longer lived for himself. This person became a new creation in Christ.

#### Mark 4: 35-41

Presented to us in the Gospel today is a narrative that is a good example of the varied ways Scripture needs to be approached. Besides the obvious lesson that Jesus has power over nature, we can look at this story from another level. The boat is a symbol of the Church, who at that time was suffering severe persecution. Her members are as afraid as the Apostles in the boat. Jesus is asking them the same question he asked the Apostles, "Do you not yet have faith?"





## Points to Ponder

### God's Power

All the readings today focus on God's power. Images of power that often come to mind in the world today are world leaders, CEOs of companies, or perhaps a movie superhero. It may even be the head of a parish, school, or neighborhood committee. Power at any level is intoxicating. Power is the first attribute we call to mind about God, "the Almighty" in the Creed. What do Christians believe about God's power? It is the power of love, love as defined by the life of Christ. It is forgiving, healing, sacrificial, life-giving, freely given, nurturing, and eternal. We must be alert when others attach the word *love* to characteristics that are outside of what has been revealed to us by Christ in his words and actions.

- When someone speaks of the power of God, what are your first thoughts?
- What are your greatest fears that cause tension in your life? How can you more clearly hear Jesus asking you to believe in the power of his love and desire for your good?



The Eucharist is the living center of the universe, the overflowing core of love and of inexhaustible life.

—Pope Francis

Strengthen belief in the True Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. Visit the Pflaum Eucharist resources page.



Connecting GOSPEL

## and CHURCH TEACHING

### Word, You and Church

Searching for another level of meaning in today's Gospel from Mark may have come as a surprise to you. If you are among those who thought, "I would never have gotten that understanding myself," you are not alone. That is the precise reason it is so important to study the Scripture. You can do so on your own with the help of a Commentary. A Commentary is a resource written with references to help you understand the Scripture. Joining a Scripture study in your parish is one of the best ways to learn. *The Synod on the Word in the Life and Mission of the Church*

offers this insight: "In summary, a true reading of the Scriptures cannot be done except in *Ecclesia*, in accord with her teachings" (#16). Even in prayer, the personal insight we obtain, must be placed in the broader revelation by God to the Church. God speaks one truth. Because of his promise to send the Holy Spirit to guide the Church, we must not let our personal revelation have greater authority than that given to the community.

➔ To learn more, refer to CCC, 688–690 or go to Booklet 3, Session 3 in *Growing Faith*.



### Closing PRAYER

*Calling to mind that you are the definition of love, the Holy Trinity, we ask that you keep us ever vigilant in our search for the meaning of love. Amen.*

### FAMILY CORNER

Scan here for parent resources. ➔



#### Question of the Week

How can love be a power?



#### Family Prayer

Lord, help us to make your Word the heart of our family. Amen.