

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
Belleville, PA



Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 9, 2020

GATHERING

WELCOME

Welcome on this 10th Sunday after Pentecost. May the joy of joining together whether in God's house or your house sustain us through the coming weeks.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Several people from both churches are working together to mount recorded services on the church Facebook pages and the church websites. Check on Sunday or during the week for additions. West Kish: www.westkish.com St. John's Lutheran: <https://stjohnsbelleville.org>.

SILENT PRAYER

Holy God, you speak to us in a voice unexpected and come to us in ways we do not recognize. Never leaving us to our own devices or defenses, you are the ever-present, all-powerful God. Call us out in faith again and again, until we learn to walk with you in steadfast love and faithfulness, and in peace. In the name of him who comes to us upon the waters, Jesus Christ. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Where God dwells, steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other.

People: Faithfulness springs up from the ground and righteousness looks down from the sky.

All: God gives what is good and we respond with abundant praise!

HYMN of PRAISE – *What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine*

page 8

CALL to CONFESSION

As we turn to God in true confession of our shortcomings, regrets and sin, we trust in God, whose shalom makes us whole, we depend on God's generosity and grace.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, you call us to step out in faith, trusting in you for all things. We respond to your command but then sink in doubt and fear. We hide from the challenges of bold discipleship. We are not able to fulfill your commandments, for our purposes are never in full accord with yours. Forgive us, we pray, when we confess with our lips but do not believe in our hearts. Help us to practice our faith in all circumstances. Lift us out of sin into the arms of your mercy. If sin is around us, lift us out of sin into the arms of your mercy. Though we are distracted by noise all around, allow us to hear your voice even when it is the sound of sheer silence... [A time of silence is kept.] We pray in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

This is the good news we believe in our hearts and confess with our mouths: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!
This is good news to share with all people!

THE PEACE

Leader: Please extend the peace of Christ beyond the walls of our homes and sanctuary into the world.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: And also with you.

GLORIA

Glory Be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost as it was in the beginning, it is now and ever will be, world without end. Amen.

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, we listen for you in wind, earthquake, and fire. Unexpectedly, you speak in the sound of silence. We pray that by the power of the Holy Spirit, you will silence in us all the storms, doubts, and fears that overwhelm us: the news, the emails, our inner thoughts, so that we may hear what you have to say. Your still small voice. Thin. Quiet. Yet compelling, commanding, all the same. We ask it in the name of Christ. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS ~ *pages*

1 Kings 19:9-18 Elijah – still small voice
Psalm 85: 8-13 Steadfast love and faithfulness meet
Romans 10:5-15 Call on the name of the Lord – believe
Matthew 14:22-23 Jesus Walks on the Water – Peter, Save me Lord

MESSAGE ~ *Praying in Stillness at the Eye of the Storm*

The message is part of a series on “Prayer: To, For, With” drawing from 1 Kings and Matthew 14 this week and from the words of hymns and songs

Special Music during Prayers

Sound of Silence

by Paul Simon

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS of INTERCESSION

Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Time of Silent Prayer

For your whole church throughout the world. Give courage in the midst of storms, so that we see and hear Jesus calling: “Take heart, it is I: do not be afraid.” May we follow Christ wherever he leads.

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

For the nations and their leaders. In you, steadfast love and faithfulness meet, and righteousness and peace kiss. May the nations in conflict know the peace that is the fruit of justice, and the justice that is the path to peace.

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

We pray that violent and hostile struggles will be defeated by good. Give us faith and courage to follow Christ so closely that divisions are dismantled, reconciliation is accomplished, and love casts out all fear.

Increase mutual understanding and a sense of unity in our community, in this congregation, in the church around the world. In our personal relationships, bring healing where there is estrangement and hurt. In our relationship to your creation, give us creativity and perseverance as we work to be faithful, tender stewards of all that you have so wondrously made. We entrust to your providence and care all those who suffer; all who are hiding from you, from others, or even from themselves because of fear or feelings of unworthiness. To one struggling with doubt, increase faith. To one enduring persecution or prejudice, bring freedom. For those caught in the grip of anxiety and uncertainty, grant the calm rest that your peace alone gives. And for all who face illness, pain, or even death, we pray for restoration and wholeness to fill them—in heart, mind, and body. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray especially for those in the hospital or at home who, with God at their side, are courageously fighting against COVID. We pray for ambulance drivers and emergency personnel, medical workers and caretakers that they are able to sustain healing calm amidst chaos and crisis. We lift to you all of those on our prayer list and those mentioned as we share our joys and concerns.

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

We thank you for the beauty of nature to uplift us and the joy of children, friends, family and church to encourage us. In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

God has been generous in providing for our needs. Let us give back a portion of what has already been given to us.

SHARING OUR GIFTS ~ If worshipping from home you may mail your offering or drop it off at the church office (wear your mask) or make your gifts through your bank online.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING/DEDICATION

Generous God, we thank you for your call and claim upon our lives. Because there is so much more we can become, and so much more we can do, we pray that our faith will increase; that our practice of generosity will be enlarged; and that our joy in believing will encourage others as we share with them the good news of Jesus Christ; in whose name we pray. Amen.

*Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise him all creatures here below
Praise him above ye heavenly hosts
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

SENDING

*HYMN ~ *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind*

page 9

CHARGE: Step out in faith, trusting that the God who has called you is able to keep you from falling and holds you in love.

BLESSING: May the steadfast love and faithfulness of God surround you; the peace of Christ enfold you; and the Holy Spirit encourage you, now and forever.

POSTLUDE

KEEP YOUR BULLETIN handy during the week. Use the Questions for Reflection. Contemplate your answers and write them down. Post them on Facebook or call up and share them with the pastor or with a friend or with your Good Shepherd. Use the Household prayers as devotionals and inspiration during the week. The Upper Room and other devotionals are also available to be picked up at the church or if you would like to have one mailed to you, let Joy or Kelly know.

Questions for Reflection: After Jesus caught Peter in the water, was Jesus' question, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" a reproach? When we are facing a great difficulty, do we doubt God's power? Do we doubt ourselves? Can you recall other biblical stories or a story from your own life, when God reached out to rescue or to overcome doubt and fear with the gift of increased faith?

Household Prayer Morning: Morning Holy God, the new day begins with such promise. Help me to enter into this day with joy and confidence in your power and goodness. Whatever challenge I may face, help me to trust in your presence, remembering that you are stronger than any difficulty or threat. If you will surround me in the embrace and affection of steadfast love and faithfulness, of righteousness and peace, then I will be lifted up and strengthened to follow you. In Christ's name, I pray. Amen.

Household Prayer Evening: Evening Gracious God, favor me with the sheer silence of your presence at the end of this day. Quiet any voices of fear and doubt that would trouble me, toss and turn me. Grant me, and anyone who enters the night hours with anxiety or pain, your perfect peace. Favor your children with calm and rest, with healing and renewal, as we sleep and dream in your arms of mercy. In your Son's dear name, I pray. Amen."

Portions of the liturgy are drawn from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 2: Trinity Sunday through Reign of Christ by Kimberly Bracken Long and from the Celebrate for August 2nd from Augsburg Fortress.

Pastor: Reverend Ela J. Robertson Phone 740-338-7123

Church Office: 935-2032 **Email us at** stjohnco@embarqmail.com

St. John's Christian Day Care: 935-2959

Please remember in prayer ~ Kim Aumiller, Ev Young, Samantha Smith, our members ~ Betty Harmon (Elmcroft), Carol Yoder, Diddy Cleck, Betty Smith; Memory Lane ~ Nancy Aumiller and sister, Sally Shingler.

Thank you to everyone who supported the annual Daycare Yard Sale by donating your unwanted items or just coming to browse and buy. We made over \$1,000.00 and a lot of what we sold was priced from .25 - \$1.00, so there was a lot that went out the door...literally!!

St. John's has Meals on Wheels the last week of this month and first week in September. The following food donations are still needed. **Please contact the church office (2032) or Sue Lynch (935-2013) if you can help in this way.**

Tuesday, August 25 ~ 1 seedless watermelon (**Please have the watermelon cut into large pieces**)

Thursday, August 27 ~ Money to purchase pies (mail/drop off at church)

Tuesday, September 1 ~ 5 9x13 pans of Cherry (any flavor) Delight or Lemon Lush

Thursday, September 3 ~ 5 dozen Whoopie Pies (purchased locally or homemade)

Applesauce (either fresh or canned/frozen from last year)

Reminder ~ If you have not returned your ballot for the boiler repair/parking lot project, please do so ASAP. Also included is a survey on worship options.

Notes from the Pastor:

Pastor Ela is primarily working from home. If you need to speak to Pastor Ela, you may call her at 740-338-7123.

There will be a special presentation on Human Trafficking at 10AM on August 22 at Allensville Mennonite Church. All are invited. More information to come.

Congregants have been asked to express what form of worship outreach they prefer when we cannot meet in the sanctuary. This could include Facebook, radio, curbside visits, parking lot church or other ideas you have. Please submit your feedback to your Good Shepherd or the pastor ASAP. We may combine these in a way that will work for both churches, for those at home and those who wish to gather.

Prayer: During the month of August I will be focusing on prayer "For, With, and To" and also on messages in our favorite hymns. I encourage everyone to pray to God in thanksgiving for the life and creation we are able to enjoy, to pray for compassion beyond boundaries for all who are suffering and to pray with the light of Christ and the comfort of the Holy Spirit with you.

Home Blessings: For those of us choosing to stay home rather than go out on Sundays our home has become our sanctuary. *Home blessings will be postponed for now. However, as soon as feasible, Pastor Ela hopes to offer a curbside visit and a short service for a Blessing of a Home for all who request it.*

Challenges, Controversies & Encouragement: We are a church that embraces differences - in everything from opinions to hair styles and beard lengths. When we feel uncomfortable with what we hear in church, particular words, songs or messages. we are being challenged to explore differences and hear beyond our present circumstances to the heart of God's message for us and beyond us. When, as some of you do, you let the pastor know how you are feeling we can explore this further together and be encouraged in unity in Christ.

Cards: Cards, candy, flowers and food continue to be a great uplift to those home bound and a visible reminder of the prayers and encouragement we offer. Thank you to those who are reaching out in that way. I know those at Valley View especially have been uplifted by this. Care workers at Lewistown Hospital have also expressed their appreciation. If you would like to volunteer to help with making this a more ongoing outreach while the flowers are blooming and we are unable to personally deliver bulletins, please let the office or Pastor Ela know.

There will be a Blood drive with Covid antibody testing. The Amish clinic is sponsoring a Red Cross blood drive on Monday, August 10th at Locust Grove Mennonite Church that will also involve testing for COVID antibodies so that blood donated by be beneficial to those struggling with COVID.

Just a reminder...beginning August 10th, the window service hours at the Belleville Post office will be Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. – 3:45 p.m. (closed for lunch from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.) and Saturdays 8 a.m. – 12 noon.

St. John's ~ January thru August 6
Income \$ 148,307.76 Expense \$ 125,015.26
Net Income \$ 23,292.50

Parking Lot Donations YTD ~ \$ 13,953.72
Boiler Donation ~ \$500.00

Daycare ~ January thru August 6
YTD Income ~ \$ 115,938.35 YTD Expense ~ \$ 101,520.59
Net Income \$ 14,417.76

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

780

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

G Am C G D

- 1 What a fel - low-ship, what a joy di - vine,
 2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean-ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms;
 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear,

G Am C G D⁷ G

what a bless - ed-ness, what a peace is mine,
 oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean-ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
 I have bless - ed peace with my Lord so near,

Refrain

G C G D G D

Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se-cure from all a - larms;

Lean-ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,

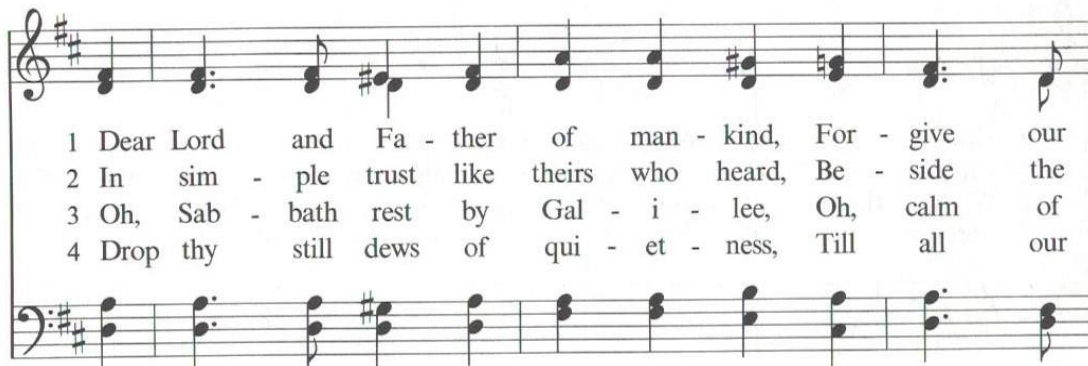
G C G D⁷ G

lean - ing, lean - ing, lean-ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

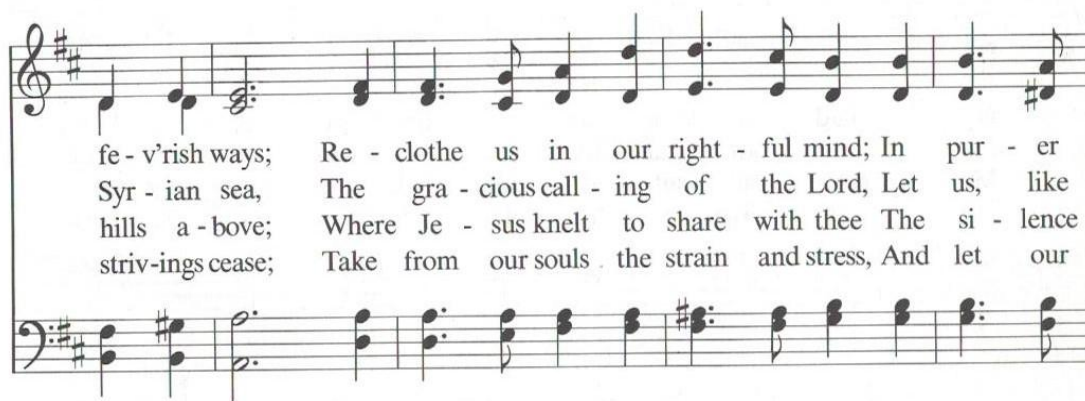
lean-ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,

Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

506



1 Dear Lord and Fa - ther of man - kind, For - give our
2 In sim - ple trust like theirs who heard, Be - side the
3 Oh, Sab - bath rest by Gal - i - lee, Oh, calm of
4 Drop thy still dews of qui - et - ness, Till all our



fe - v'rish ways; Re - clothe us in our right - ful mind; In pur - er
Syr - ian sea, The gra - cious call - ing of the Lord, Let us, like
hills a - bove; Where Je - sus knelt to share with thee The si - lence
striv - ings cease; Take from our souls the strain and stress, And let our



lives thy ser - vice find, In deep - er rev - 'rence, praise.
them, with - out a word Rise up and fol - low thee.
of e - ter - ni - ty, In - ter - pret - ed by love!
or - dered lives con - fess The beau - ty of thy peace.

- 5 Breathe through the heats of our desire
Thy coolness and thy balm;
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still small voice of calm!



Celebrate

Sunday, August 9, 2020
10th Sunday after Pentecost

Elijah finds the presence of God not in earthquake, wind, or fire, but in the sound of sheer silence. When the disciples face a great storm on the sea, they cry out with fear. Jesus says: "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Amid the storms of life, we gather to seek the calm presence of Christ that soothes our fears. In comforting words of scripture and in the refreshing bread and cup of the eucharist, God grants us peace and sends us forth to be a sign of God's presence to others.

Prayer of the Day

O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading

1 Kings 19:9-18

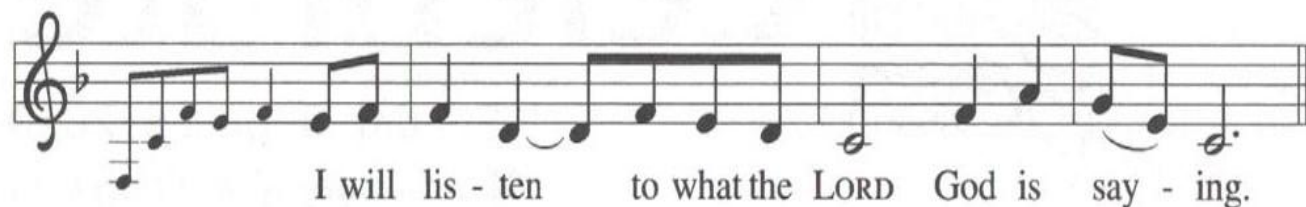
On Mount Horeb, where God had appeared to Moses with typical signs of God's presence—earthquake, wind, and fire—Elijah now experienced God in "sheer silence." God assured Elijah that he is not the only faithful believer. Seven thousand Israelites are still loyal. God instructed Elijah to anoint two men as kings and to anoint Elisha as his own successor.

At [Horeb, the mount of God,] [Elijah] came to a cave, and spent the night there.

Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁰He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

¹¹He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; ¹²and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his

mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁴He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." ¹⁵Then the LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. ¹⁷Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. ¹⁸Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."



- I will listen to what the LORD¹ God is saying;
 for you speak peace to your faithful people
 and to those who turn their¹ hearts to you.
- ⁹**Truly, your salvation is very near to¹ those who fear you,
 that your glory may dwell¹ in our land. R**
- ¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have¹ met together;
 righteousness and peace have¹ kissed each other.
- ¹¹**Faithfulness shall spring up¹ from the earth,
 and righteousness shall look¹ down from heaven.**
- ¹²The LORD will indeed¹ grant prosperity,
 and our land will¹ yield its increase.
- ¹³**Righteousness shall go be-¹ fore the LORD
 and shall prepare for¹ God a pathway. R**

A right relationship with God is not something we achieve by heroic efforts. It is a gift received in the proclamation whose content is Jesus Christ. This proclaimed word creates our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Hence Christian proclamation is an indispensable component of God's saving actions.

Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that "the person who does these things will live by them."⁶ But the righteousness that comes from faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down)⁷ "or 'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).⁸ But what does it say?

"The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart"
(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim);⁹ because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.¹⁰ For one believes with the heart and so is

justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved.¹¹ The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame."¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him.¹³ For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

¹⁴But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him?¹⁵ And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Gospel

Matthew 14:22-33

Matthew's gospel typically portrays Jesus' disciples as people of "little faith," who fail despite their best intentions. In this story, Matthew shows how Jesus comes to the disciples when they are in trouble and sustains them in their time of fear and doubt.

[Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side [of the Sea of Galilee], while he dismissed the crowds.²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone,²⁴ but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them.²⁵ And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea.²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear.²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said,

"Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

²⁸Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."²⁹ He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus.³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"³² When they got into the boat, the wind ceased.³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."