

REMEMBERING IN A COVID CLIMATE

Opening Song: **Calm me Lord (Margaret Rizza)**

**Calm me Lord as you calmed the storm,
still me Lord, keep me from harm.
Let all the tumult within me cease,
enfold me Lord in your peace**

GOSPEL from the Gospel according to Mark 4:35-41

With the coming of evening that same day, Jesus said to his disciples:

"Let us cross over to the other side."

And leaving the crowd behind they took him, just as he was, in the boat;
and there were other boats with him.

Then it began to blow a gale
and the waves were breaking into the boat
so that it was almost swamped.

But he was in the stern, his head on the cushion, asleep.

From Psalm 38(37)

All my frame burns with fever;
all my body is sick.
Spent and utterly crushed,
I cry aloud in anguish of heart.

My heart throbs, my strength is spent;
the very light has gone from my eyes.

My friends avoid me like a leper;
those closest to me stand afar off.

O Lord, do not forsake me!
My God, do not stay afar off!
Make haste and come to my help,
O Lord, my God, my saviour!

From the letter of St Paul to the Romans 8:31b-39

With God on our side who can be against us?

Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give.

Jesus not only died for us - he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

Nothing therefore can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted,
or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked.

These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us.

The Gospel continued: Mark 4:40-41

They woke him and said to him, "Master, do you not care? We are going down!"

And he woke up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea,

"Quiet now! Be calm!"

And the wind dropped, and all was calm again.

Then he said to them, **"Why are you so frightened?**

How is it that you have no faith?"

Intercessions

Intro: Our God is Lord of the living and of the dead. We are all in God's hands. With the trusting of faith then, we present our intentions:

Let us pray for all our parishioners who have died this past year whom we remember this evening by name before the Lord. May the tender mercy of our God grant them unending light and peace. *Lord hear us...*

Let us pray for those who died without a loved one near them, or with no one to hold their hand. May the communion of Saints rush to meet them. *Lord hear us...*

We pray for families who, because of COVID restrictions, could not honour their deceased loved ones as fully as they would have liked, who were deprived too of our physical presence and support. May we continue to reach out to them. May the Risen Christ sustain them. *Lord hear us...*

We pray for all who mourn and grieve and live with the pain and ache of separation. May faces of compassion and listening ears transfigure their burden. May the Holy Spirit be their strength and consolation. *Lord hear us...*

We pray in thanksgiving for frontline workers who gave wonderful care in very difficult circumstances to the sick and dying and their families. We thank God for the kindness of neighbours and friends. Reward their goodness. *Lord hear us...*

We pray for those who have no one to remember them. May the Lord, who never forgets us, gather them to Himself. *Lord hear us...*

We pray for the many who die before their time because of violence, war, hunger and diseases, every day. May the Lord show profound mercy to those who suffer so unjustly, and grant us a hunger for to work for a better future. *Lord hear us...*

We pray for ourselves, remembering and praying together this evening, that the love of God will gather us together again in the Father's House. *Lord hear us...*

Conclusion: We lift up all these intentions with the unspoken sighs of our hearts as we pray: *Our Father...*