



St. Bathildis, the wife and queen of Clovis II, the king of Burgundy and Neustria, was born around 626–627. She was beautiful, intelligent, modest and attentive to the needs of others. Even as queen, she remained humble and modest. She is famous for her charitable services and generous donations.

First Reading: (Heb 11:1-2, 8-19) Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the men of old received divine approval. By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place which he was to receive as an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was to go. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore. These all died in faith, not having received what was promised, but having seen it and greeted it from afar; and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared

for them a city. By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was ready to offer up his only son, of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your descendants be named." He considered that God was able to raise men even from the dead; hence he did receive him back, and this was a symbol.

Lk 1:69-75

R. / Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel! He has visited his people and redeemed them.

Gospel: (Mk 4:35-41) When evening had come, Jesus said to his disciples, "Let us go across to the other side." And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. And a great storm of wind arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care if we perish?" And he awoke and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?" And they were filled with awe, and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even wind and sea obey him?"

REFLECTION

After the completion of the discourse on the parables, which we were listening for the last few days, Jesus invites the disciples to join him in "crossing over to the other side," to which they obediently respond. The implied safety of the boat in his physical presence changes dramatically. The cry of the disciples to the peacefully sleeping Jesus echoes the situation of God's people around the time of the destruction of Jerusalem. Mark tells his audience that the real threat is not the circumstances in which we find ourselves, but what churns and rages within us that blows us off course, beats against our faith. Jesus' command: "Peace! Be still!" is not so much aimed at changing the weather, but at inviting the disciples to change. He's speaking to the wind and the waves within them. **This is rightly called the parable of discipleship, as it is an invitation to grow in the right faith, a faith that does not change the storms of life, but rather changes us to face them.** Such a faith does not take us around or away from the storm but through the storm.