



Afraid to Ask

1st Tuesday in Lent

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, 'The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.' But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Mark 9:30-32

Galilee was home turf. It was in Galilee that Jesus called the Twelve to follow him. Now it is in Galilee that, once again, he shares with them difficult words which they really do not want to hear. Galilee, whatever it may be—a place, a time, a gathering, an event—is where our lives connect and reconnect again with Jesus. It is where we experience the presence and the call of Jesus; the place where we decide to follow or to keep on following Jesus; the place to which we go for renewal and refreshment in our faith. For me, Galilee is the corporate worship of God's people. It is being together in prayer, in praise, in sacrament, and song. Galilee is playing hymns on the piano—old ones and new ones—and, more and more Galilee is a time and place of quiet, of silence. We may be comforted in Galilee; sometimes we are challenged in Galilee; and sometimes we're confounded by what we hear in Galilee.

This was the second time that Jesus had spoken with his disciples about what lay ahead of him when they arrived in Jerusalem, but still they *did not understand and were afraid to ask*. Some things we would just as soon not know. We fear understanding. For the Twelve it would be that Jesus was right about the cross and Peter was wrong. Yet, still they followed Jesus, even when they did not understand and feared understanding. They followed, followed him all the way to Jerusalem, and so do we sometimes follow in spite of our fears.

Prayer

Give me grace, O Lord, to hear what you are saying to me and to trust you when I do not understand. Amen.