

## The Faith of Our Fathers

So they may be instructed in faith, the Lord permits the disciples to be tossed and shaken about by the storm. It could not happen that they would perish, since He Who can do all things was with them. So when He calms the storm, Our Lord also changes the faith of the disciples which had been shaken with their little ship. He changes their doubt to certainty, and He works in them a great calm. He smooths the waves of their little faith. And so together with the tumult of the waves, He quiets the fear within their souls, chiding them while He teaches them, that the cause of their fears was not the assault of the tempest, but their own lack of faith. (St. Cyril of Alexandria) ❧❧❧

There is no one in the whole world who can withstand death. All men flee from it and quake in terror before it. Nevertheless, they are overtaken by death. But faith remains firm and stands up against death. Faith conquers death and devours this ravenous glutton. Likewise, the whole world cannot constrain or suppress the flesh. But faith takes hold of the flesh and subdues it. Faith bridles the flesh into obedience. Similarly, no man can endure the raging, persecution, blasphemy, reproach, hatred and jealousy of the world. It makes a mockery of faith and treads it under foot, and even finds joy and pleasure in all this. Yet faith alone is the victory that overcomes the world. (Blessed Martin Luther) ❧❧❧

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For the *Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany*. These excerpts are intended as meditative pieces for the Day's pericopes. They have been edited and abridged for style, sense and space.

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