

God is near. It is easy to believe when times are good but when the storms come, and they do – whether it is storms of nature or the storms of our lives –we tend to forget.

Some will tell us that tragedy is a punishment for sin. And we may wonder why God is doing this to us. Others will tell us that God won't give us more than we can handle. I don't know about you but there have been a few times when it felt like a lot more...

God is near, we hear in today's gospel. God is near in the midst of a daunting picture that Mark portrays of the world's demise... But... don't get caught up in the storm.

Listen.... Listen for the words that say: *God is near.*
God will go the ends of the earth for you. This is God's word to you.

God is near, no matter what is going on in your life.
God is near to the broken-hearted and the full hearted,
to the lost and the lonely and the faithful.

God is near – through family and friend and stranger.
God is near – here in this sacred place and in the depths of your heart.

May we never forget.
May we make this our everyday prayer and rely on this promise: God is near.