

The Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

June 17, 2018

First Reading ~ Exodus 17: 22-24

Thus says the Lord GOD:

I, too, will take from the crest of the cedar,  
from its topmost branches tear off a tender shoot,  
and plant it on a high and lofty mountain;  
on the mountain heights of Israel I will plant it.  
It shall put forth branches and bear fruit,  
and become a majestic cedar.

Birds of every kind shall dwell beneath it,  
every winged thing in the shade of its boughs.

And all the trees of the field shall know  
that I, the LORD,

bring low the high tree,  
lift high the lowly tree,  
wither up the green tree,  
and make the withered tree bloom.

As I, the LORD, have spoken, so will I do.

Second Reading ~ 2 Corinthians 5: 6-10

Brothers and sisters:

We are always courageous,  
although we know  
that while we are at home in the body  
we are away from the Lord,  
for we walk by faith, not by sight.

Yet we are courageous,  
and we would rather leave the body  
and go home to the Lord.

Therefore, we aspire to please him,  
whether we are at home or away.

For we must all appear  
before the judgment seat of Christ,  
so that each may receive recompense,  
according to what he did in the body,  
whether good or evil.

Psalm 92

*Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.*

It is good to give thanks to the LORD,  
to sing praise to your name, Most High,  
To proclaim your kindness at dawn  
and your faithfulness throughout the night.

The just one shall flourish like the palm tree,  
like a cedar of Lebanon shall he grow.  
They that are planted in the house of the LORD  
shall flourish in the courts of our God.

They shall bear fruit even in old age;  
vigorous and sturdy shall they be,  
Declaring how just is the LORD,  
my rock, in whom there is no wrong.



Gospel ~ Mark 4: 26-34

Jesus came home with his disciples.

Jesus said to the crowds:

“This is how it is with the kingdom of God;  
it is as if a man were to scatter seed on the land  
and would sleep and rise night and day  
and through it all the seed would sprout and grow,  
he knows not how.

Of its own accord the land yields fruit,  
first the blade, then the ear,  
then the full grain in the ear.  
And when the grain is ripe,  
he wields the sickle at once,  
for the harvest has come.”

He said,

“To what shall we compare the kingdom of God,  
or what parable can we use for it?

It is like a mustard seed that,  
when it is sown in the ground,  
is the smallest of all the seeds on the earth.

But once it is sown,  
it springs up and becomes the largest of plants  
and puts forth large branches,  
so that the birds of the sky can dwell in its shade.”

With many such parables  
he spoke the word to them  
as they were able to understand it.

Without parables he did not speak to them,  
but to his own disciples  
he explained everything in private.

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## June 17, 2018

### Gathered As One

Many faces, the young and the old,  
gathered as one in our God.  
Throughout hist'ry the story's retold,  
gathered as one in our God.

*Like those come before us, we listen and learn.  
We remember the promise and await your return.  
So without hesitation a new generation proclaims the salva-  
tion of God.*

**Gathered as one in Jesus your Son,  
lifting our voices in praise,  
We know and believe and long to receive  
the bread that is strength for our days,  
gathered as one!**

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### You Are Near

*O Lord, I know you are near,  
standing always at my side.  
You guard me from the foe,  
and you lead me in ways everlasting.*

Lord, you have searched my heart,  
and you know when I sit and when I stand.  
Your hand is upon me protecting me from death,  
keeping me from harm.

Where can I run from Your love?  
If I climb to the heavens You are there;  
If I fly to the sunrise or sail beyond the sea,  
still I'd find You there.

Text: Psalm 139; Dan Schutte, b. 1947  
Tune: Dan Schutte, b.1947, acc. By Sr. Theophane Hytrek, OSF, 1915-1992  
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### “Ground Rules” for Small Group Faith Sharing

Maintain confidentiality – “Whatever happens in small group stays in small group.”  
Judgment-free zone – You don’t have to agree with everyone, but you have to have respect for everyone.  
No “shut downs” or “put downs” – See Christ in one another, BE Christ to one another.  
Don’t be a “discussion hog” – Be sure that everyone that wants to gets a chance to share.  
Leave room for the Spirit – Silence is OK! Not everyone has to share.  
Practice active listening – Avoid interrupting, fidgeting, criticizing, lecturing, or thinking of what you’re going to say while another person is speaking.  
Questions are a guide - You do not have to answer all of them or go in order.  
Be open – God is doing amazing things!

### Questions for Reflection on the Gospel

1. What word, image, or phrase struck you from the Gospel?
2. In the Gospel this week, we hear two parables. What is the farmer’s job in both these parables? What is God’s job? Could you ask yourself the same two questions about your ministry - what is your job and what is God’s job? Can you trust God to do God’s job?
3. In the First Reading, we hear another parable of the “tender shoot”. What are the similarities between this and the mustard seed in the Gospel? This shoot becomes a majestic cedar. How is Jesus’ own life an example of this? Can you think of others who followed or now follow this example?
4. In the Second Reading, we hear that we “walk by faith, and not by sight.” What does that mean to you? Why would we need the courage Paul mentions twice in this reading, in order to walk by faith? Who are some people that you know or hear of who walk by faith and not by sight?
5. Read Pope Francis’ words on the left below. According to him, who is in charge of the growth of the Kingdom of God? Does this growth require something from us? What happens to our (small, mustard-seed-sized) gifts when we use them in collaboration with God for the kingdom?

### Words from our Holy Father

When we live like this, (pure of heart, simply and humbly) the strength of Christ bursts through us and transforms what is small and modest into a reality that leavens the entire mass of the world and of history.

An important lesson comes to us from these two parables: God’s Kingdom requires *our cooperation*, but it is above all the *initiative and gift of the Lord*. Our weak effort, seemingly small before the complexity of the problems of the world, when integrated with God’s effort, fears no difficulty. The victory of the Lord is certain: *his love will make every seed of goodness present on the ground sprout and grow.*

-Pope Francis, Angelus, St. Peter’s Square  
Sunday, June 14, 2015

### Petitions

Our response: “Lord, you lift up the lowly.”

### Closing Prayer

O God, at whose bidding the seed will sprout and the shoot grow toward full stature, hear the prayer of your assembled people. Make us trust in your hidden ways, that we may pray with confidence and wait for your kingdom now growing in our midst. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.