



OPENING PRAYER

+In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen

Father God, thank you for this time with you. May the Holy Spirit be upon me, that I may receive wisdom from your Word, be open to Your holy Will and give glory to You always. Through Christ our Lord, Amen

Our Father + Hail Mary + Glory Be

LECTIO DIVINA

Invite the Holy Spirit - Read - Reflect - Respond in Prayer - Rest in Silence

Gospel: Mark 4:26-34

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.

St. Mark's gospel offers encouragement to build up the kingdom of God. We know that with God's grace, these seeds will grow in mysterious ways beyond understanding. This is true of our faith and God's Hand in directing us toward the fullness of the Kingdom. How did parables help the disciples in their faith journey? In what ways has your faith grown over the years? How can we plant seeds of faith and service in others? What have you seen manifest from this?

Reading I: Ezekiel 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.

The writings of the priest prophet Ezekiel reflect on Judah's political and social destruction. Today's reading is the prophecy of restoration and offers hope for a future in the midst of Judah's darkest gloom. In times when you have experienced darkness, what brings you hope? When have you experienced being on a high and lofty mountain? How do we maintain our trust in God and in His spoken word?

Notes

RESPONSORIAL PSALM RESPONSE: Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

Reading II: 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.

In this reading, St. Paul reflects on his suffering and what gives him hope. Why do you believe he emphasizes the importance of being courageous? What is the destiny of all Christians? Why must we do all that we can to please the Lord?

Feast days this week

SUNDAY 16 ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MONDAY 17 WEEKDAY

TUESDAY 18 WEEKDAY

WEDNESDAY 19 WEEKDAY

THURSDAY 20 WEEKDAY

FRIDAY 21 SAINT ALOYSIUS GONZAGA, MEMORIAL

SATURDAY 22 WEEKDAY

reflect

Do I readily receive
and accept the seeds
of faith in my life?
Have I sown seeds in
others?

pray

Father God, may the seeds
of faith take deep root
within me,
Through Christ our Lord,
Amen

live

Live for the hope of
eternal life by making
life meaningful.