

## ELEVENTH SUNDAY



*First Reading † Ezekiel 17:22-24*

*I have made the small tree great.*

### **A reading from the prophet Ezekiel**

Thus says the Lord God:

From the top of the tall cedar tree,  
from the highest branch I shall take a shoot  
and plant it myself on a high and lofty mountain.

I shall plant it on the highest mountain in Israel.  
It will put out branches and bear fruit  
and grow into a noble cedar tree.  
Every kind of bird will live beneath it,  
every kind of winged creature  
will rest in the shade of its branches.

And all the trees of the countryside will know  
that I, the Lord, lay low the tall tree  
and raise high the low tree;  
I make the green tree wither  
and make the withered tree bear fruit.  
I, the Lord, have spoken and I will do it.”

The word of the Lord.

*Responsorial † Psalm 91:2-3.13-16*

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

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,  
to make music to your name, O Most High;  
to proclaim your loving mercy in the morning,  
and your truth in the watches of the night,

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

The righteous will flourish like the palm tree,  
and grow like a cedar of Lebanon.

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

Planted in the house of the Lord,  
they will flourish in the courts of our God,  
still bearing fruit when they are old,  
still full of sap, still green,  
to proclaim that the Lord is upright.  
In him, my rock, there is no wrong.

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

**Second Reading † 2 Corinthians 5:6-10**

*Whether we are living in the body or exiled from it, we are intent on pleasing the Lord.*

**A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians**

We are always full of confidence, then, realising that as long as we are at home in the body we are exiled from the Lord, walking by faith and not yet by sight; we are full of confidence, then, and long rather to be exiled from the body and to be at home with the Lord.

And so whether at home or exiled, we make it our ambition to please him. For at the judgement-seat of Christ we must all be seen for what we are, so that each of us may receive proportionately to what has been done in the body, whether good or bad.

The word of the Lord.

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower;  
all who come to him will live for ever.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**Gospel † Mark 4:26-34**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark**

*The mustard seed, the smallest of all the seeds, grows into the biggest shrub of all.*

Jesus said to the disciples,

‘This is what the kingdom of God is like. It is as if a man should scatter seed on the earth.  
Night and day, while he sleeps, when he is awake, the seed sprouts and grows; how, he does not know.  
Of its own accord the earth produces first the shoot, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear.  
And when the crop is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because harvest time has come.’

He also said,

‘With what can we compare the kingdom of God? What parable can we find for it?  
It is like a mustard seed which, at the time of its sowing on the earth, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth.  
Yet once it is sown it grows up and becomes the biggest shrub of all and puts out big branches so that the birds of the air nest in its shade.’

Using many parables like these, he spoke the word to them, so far as they were capable of understanding it. He did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything to his disciples on their own.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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