

**Sunday, June 16, 2024**  
**The Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**

- 1) Ezekiel 17:22-24
- 2) 2 Corinthians 5:6-10
- 3) Mark 4:26-34

**FOCUS:** The seeds of God’s kingdom are planted but not yet full-grown.

Jesus uses the images of the sower and the mustard seed to explain the kingdom of God. Although seemingly small or insignificant, these examples demonstrate that great things can happen through the work of God. The kingdom must grow to become like Ezekiel’s lofty cedar tree, which is full of the fruits of the kingdom. All our efforts in building the kingdom, even if they seem small, will be blessed by God.

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

Ezekiel speaks for the Lord God, saying he will plant a majestic cedar on the mountain of Israel. Paul writes that we *walk by faith, not by sight*, and we must appear before the *judgment seat of Christ*. In the Gospel, Jesus likens the kingdom of God to a man who scatters seed and harvests it when it is ripe, and also compares the kingdom to a mustard seed that grows into a large plant.

**UNIVERSAL PRAYER**

PRIEST: With trust in our merciful God, we offer him these petitions.

- 1) That our holy mother Church may continue to receive the help of Christ in using her prophetic voice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That all people may come to know that Jesus is Lord of heaven and earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who grow, prepare, and serve our food may be blessed abundantly, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That the seeds of faith planted in our hearts at baptism may continue to flourish and grow toward spiritual maturity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That the souls of the faithful departed may find eternal peace in God’s presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord God, hear the prayers of your people and answer them in your goodness. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

\* \* \* \* \*