

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you; be my help.  
Do not abandon or forsake me, O God, my Saviour!

**GLORIA**

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.  
We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.  
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lords God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

**COLLECT**

O God, strength of those who hope in you,  
graciously hear our pleas,  
and, since without you mortal frailty can do nothing,  
grant us always the help of your grace,  
that in following your commands  
we may please you by our resolve and our deeds.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**FIRST READING**

Ez 17:22-24

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel.  
The Lord says this:  
"From the top of the cedar,  
from the highest branch I will take a shoot  
and plant it myself on a very high mountain.  
I will plant it on the high mountain of Israel.  
It will sprout branches and bear fruit,  
and become a noble cedar.  
Every kind of bird will live beneath it, every  
winged creature rest in the  
shade of its branches.  
And every tree of the field will learn that I, the  
Lord, am the one  
who stunts tall trees and makes the low ones  
grow,  
I, the Lord, have spoken, and I will do it."  
The word of the Lord.

**RESP. PSALM**

Psalm 91

Response:

It is good to give you thanks, O Lord.

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

2. The just will flourish like the palm-tree  
and grow like a Lebanon cedar. (R.)
3. 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 just.  
in him, my rock, there is no wrong. (R.)

**SECOND READING**

2 Cor 5:6-10

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.  
We are always full of confidence, then, when we remember that to live in the body means to be exiled from the Lord, going as we do by faith and not by sight - we are full of confidence, I say, and actually want to be exiled from the body and make our home with the Lord. Whether we are living in the body or exiled from it, we are intent on pleasing him. For all the truth about us will be brought out in the law court of Christ, and each of us will get what he deserves for the things he did in the body, good or bad.  
The word of the Lord.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
The seed is the word of God, Christ the sower;  
whoever finds the seed will remain for ever.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

Mk 4:26-34

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.  
Jesus said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man throws seed on the land. Night and day, while he sleeps, when he is awake, the seed is sprouting and growing; how, he does not know. Of its own accord the land produces first the shoot, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the crop is ready, he loses no time: he starts to reap because the harvest has come."  
He also said, "What can we say the kingdom of God is like? What parable can we find for it? It is like a mustard seed which at the time of its sowing in the soil is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet once it is sown it grows into the biggest shrub of them all and puts out big branches so that the birds of the air can shelter in its shade."  
Using many parables like these, he spoke the word to them, so far as they were capable of understanding it. He would not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything to his disciples when they were alone.  
The Gospel of the Lord.

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.  
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,

born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,  
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,  
the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.  
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins

and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.  
Amen.

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

O God, who in the offerings presented here provide for the twofold needs of human nature,  
nourishing us with food  
and renewing us with your Sacrament,  
grant, we pray,  
that the sustenance they provide  
may not fail us in body or in spirit.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

There is one thing I ask of the Lord, only this do I seek:  
to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

As this reception of your Holy Communion,  
O Lord,  
foreshadows the union of the faithful in you,  
so may it bring about unity in your Church.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

14 JUNE 2015

# Sunday Message

ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## THE WORD

Psalter Week 3

### A HOME FOR ALL

MARK 4: 26-34

#### 'The parable chapter' ends with two short parables and a brief explanation why Jesus uses parables.

Parables are intended for the mass audience who come to hear the preaching of Jesus. They are attractive and easily remembered stories or examples that will stick in the mind of those who have heard them and perhaps force them to think more deeply about what they have heard. Sometimes the deeper meaning of a parable might not always be clear, so Jesus needs to explain everything to the disciples when they are alone. This private teaching usually takes place in the house away from the crowd.

The first parable would have been fairly obvious to the people of a farming background who formed the bulk of Jesus' audience. The farmer's responsibility is to prepare the soil and then scatter the seed. He cannot make the rains fall or the sun shine. It is these that cause the miracle of growth. All the farmer can do is wait patiently for seed to sprout and be ready for the harvest. The kingdom of God is like seed. Jesus has sown the word and must now wait for it to bear fruit.

The second parable about mustard seed makes more or less the same point. The size of the seed bears little resemblance to what it will cause to grow. Mustard is more of a large bushy shrub than a tree. This parable has been embellished a little as it was passed down. Teachers in the community may have seen the potential for teaching of borrowing a parable from the prophet Ezekiel (today's first reading). Ezekiel's parable uses the cedar tree as an image for Israel. In the same way, the Church which had small beginnings in the lifetime of Jesus is now growing into a larger community. Just as a tree provides a home for nesting birds, the Church provides a home for many nations. ■



#### LEARN

The Church is home for all the baptised.

The Mass is the family meal to which all are invited.

Some of our brothers and sisters feel unwelcome or excluded: is there anything we can do to make them feel more at home?

#### PRAY

Pray at Mass today for people who may not feel included in the life of your parish for any reason.

#### DO

Make a point of greeting someone you think may be a stranger at Sunday Mass this weekend.

#### REFLECT

The American poet Robert Frost has a poem called "Death of the Hired Man." An old farm hand called Silas has returned to a place where he worked previously. He had left on bad terms with the boss who does not particularly want him back. The farmer's wife realises that the old man has really come home to die. They are the nearest thing to a home the old man ever had, so they have little alternative but to take him. As she says, 'home is the place where, when you have to go there, they have to take you in.'

The Church is home for every baptised person. For some, it can be an unhappy home, a cold place where rules and regulations seemed more important than a place of joy at the family table. One of the topics the Synod of Bishops will consider this autumn is how the Church can be more like a home to those members who feel excluded or lost. We have much in our rich Catholic tradition to offer the lost, the broken and the excluded. ■

#### SAY

Lead kindly light amidst the encircling gloom, lead thou me on! The night is dark, and I am far from home, lead thou me on! (Blessed John Henry Newman)