

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

14th June, 2009

First Reading

Ezek. 17:22-24

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel

I have made the small tree great.

The Lord God says: I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind. All the trees of the field shall know that I am the Lord. I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. I the Lord have spoken; I will accomplish it.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps. 92

Response: *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 love in the morning
and your truth in the watches of the night. **R.**

The just will flourish like the palm-tree
and grow like a Lebanon cedar. **R.**

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 Paul to the Corinthians

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

We are always confident; even though 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. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Alleluia! The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; all who come to him will live forever. **Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

Mk. 4:26-34

✠ **A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark**

R. Glory to you Lord Christ.

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

Jesus said to the crowds, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.”

He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

For the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Christ.

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