



Today's Readings

Sunday, June 17, 2018
4th Sunday after Pentecost

Prayer of the Day

O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading

Ezekiel 17:22-24

Thus says the Lord God:

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.

²³On 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.

²⁴All the trees of the field shall know
that I am the LORD.

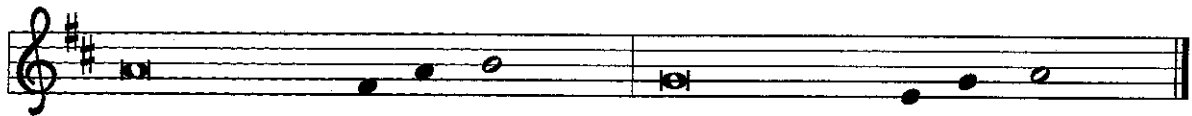
I bring low the high tree,
I make high the low tree;

I dry up the green tree
and make the dry tree flourish.

I the LORD have spoken;
I will accomplish it.

Psalm

Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15; tone 1



It is a good thing
to give thanks ¹ to the LORD,
to sing praise to your name,
¹ O Most High;
²to herald your love ¹ in the morning
and your faithful- ¹ ness at night;
³on the psaltery, and ¹ on the lyre,
and to the melody ¹ of the harp.
⁴For you have made me glad
by your ¹ acts, O LORD;
and I shout for joy
because of the works
¹ of your hands.

¹²The righteous shall flourish
¹ like a palm tree,

and shall spread abroad
like a ce- ¹ dar of Lebanon.

¹³Those who are planted
in the house ¹ of the LORD
shall flourish
in the courts ¹ of our God;

¹⁴they shall still bear fruit
¹ in old age;

they shall be ¹ green and
succulent;

¹⁵that they may show
how up- ¹ right the LORD is,
my rock,

in whom there is ¹ no injustice.

So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰For 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.

[¹¹Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. ¹²We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to

boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. ¹³For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.] ¹⁴For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. ¹⁵And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

Gospel

Mark 4:26-34

[Jesus said,] “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, ²⁷and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.”

³⁰He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹It is like a

mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³²yet 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.”

³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

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Next Sunday's Readings: John the Baptist Malachi 3:1-4; Psalm 141; Acts 13:13-26; Luke 1:57-67 [68-80] OR 5th Sunday after Pentecost Job 38:1-11; Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32; 2 Corinthians 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41.

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Tracks 1, 2, and 3