

June 17, 2018

11<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

**The Kingdom of God is at hand.**

Ezekiel 17:22-24

Psalms 92:2-3, 13-16

2Corinthians 5:6-10

Mark 4:26-34

These verses describe another of God's promises; he will take a tender shoot from a high cedar, plant it, cultivate it, and cause it to grow. Only God can make a low tree high and a high tree low, and in a similar way Israel's future is in God's hands.

The psalmist gives thanks and sings praises to the Lord, Most High. The just, who live in the presence of God, are symbolized by the magnificent trees growing in the court of the temple, and they will flourish even in old age.

Paul notes that we walk by faith implying faith involves action and is not simply a static process. He would rather be with the Lord at this time but remaining in the body as long as it is God's will encourages him to continue in his ministry.

Jesus describes the kingdom of God in parables. Just as a planted seed mysteriously grows into an abundant harvest so God's word will fill our being as long as we too are fertile soil and do not thwart its growing. The mustard seed is small and yet so was the early Christian community but they were called to believe that their efforts would magnify according to the ways of God's kingdom that bring growth and life.



**The Father sent his One  
Son to build up the Kingdom of many  
With the guidance of the Holy Spirit.**

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Almighty God and Father,  
I wish to be fully what you intend me to be.  
If I am that person at this time,  
I am grateful and satisfied for  
I do not desire to be any more or any less.

If I am not where I am supposed to be,  
guide me to get there. Until then,  
*"Cleanse me from my unknown faults."(Psalms 19:13)*

Lord Jesus, You are all powerful and could change me in an instant  
but I seek the consistent graces  
to help me understand the changes  
I must make in my life,  
and the wisdom to make those changes.

May I never stop moving toward what is better  
and never place limits on perfection.  
Lord Jesus, grant that even my failures and shortcomings  
may somehow be used in building up Your Kingdom.

Amen

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