

ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YR B)

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel (17:22-24)

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,
who withers green trees and makes the withered
green.
I, the Lord, have spoken, and I will do it.'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 91:2-3,13-16. R. Cf.v.2)

R. It is good to give you thanks, O Lord.

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

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the
Corinthians (5:6-10)

We are always full of confidence 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 (Jn 15:15)

R. Alleluia, alleluia!

I call you friends, says the Lord,
because I have made known to you
everything I have learnt from my Father.

R. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
(4:26-34)

Jesus said to the crowds: '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 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.