

The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed that is the smallest of all the seeds. But once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants.

MARK 4:31-32



THE CHURCH AND GOD'S KINGDOM

Today's scriptures connect the towering cedars of Lebanon from the prophet Ezekiel to the mustard plant of the famous parable of Jesus. Both plants represent the Kingdom of God. Both are also to be understood as symbols of the Church, where "birds of every kind shall dwell" (Ezekiel 17:23) and shelter in the cedar's branches, and the shade of the mustard plant's large branches provide dwelling for the "birds of the sky." Even today's psalm tells of the just one who is like a cedar flourishing in the house of the Lord.

Now, the Church is not the Kingdom, but rather a sacrament, a visible sign of it. They co-exist in the here-and-now but also in the "not yet." As Paul reminds us, we must constantly work to continue building and growing the Kingdom by everyday good works of "the just one." So we are all birds and just ones.

"LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT THE KINGDOM OF GOD . . ."

The Gospel of Mark is nothing if not a testament to the power of parables to illustrate the Good News through story. Jesus was a master storyteller, who understood the importance of using images and concepts to which his listeners could relate. A seed, a mustard plant, would symbolize one of Mark's signature focuses: the Kingdom of God.

Centuries earlier, the prophet Ezekiel proclaimed most poetically to the Israelites, recently liberated from Babylonian captivity, that their God was still their hope, their comfort, their rescue, and their shelter. Those refugees would understand the image of the towering cedar as a symbol of their kingdom, cut down, fallen, captured. By restoring their kingdom, their God was giving them a new creation (the replanted shoot) and a new covenant.

THY KINGDOM COME . . .

Ezekiel said that God would tear off "a tender shoot" (17:22) for this replanting. What does this sound like? Why, Advent, of course, and specifically the words of the prophet Isaiah: "A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom" (Isaiah 11:1); and again in Isaiah's Messianic texts we hear: "He grew up before us like a tender shoot" (53:2). Jesse was the father of the great King David and, as we know, Jesus came to be that tender shoot, that blossom, the new Davidic King whose throne, the cross, was once a tree.

God's incarnation in Jesus, born fully human, is the fulfillment of the promise to Ezekiel of the renewed and restored cedar, the new Kingdom. That new creation and covenant exists for us in the Church, through the Holy Spirit making the seed planted within us grow, flourish, and spread. Thus we have the faith and courage to be that visible sign of the Kingdom bringing hope and renewal to the world. We must live Kingdom lives before we can convince others to do so.

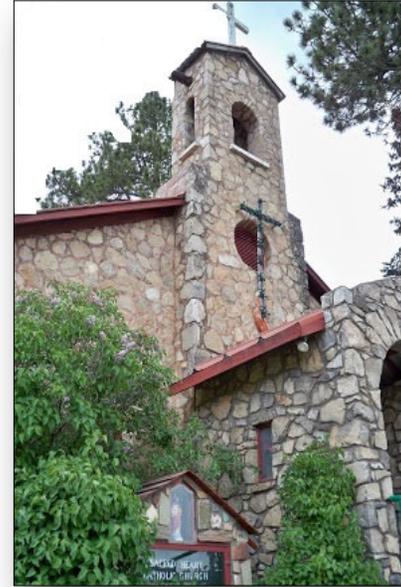
TODAY'S READINGS

Ezekiel 17:22-24
Psalm 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16
2 Corinthians 5:6-10
Mark 4:26-34

ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JUNE 13, 2021

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Sacred Heart Mission Catholic Church

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Cloudcroft, NM 88317

www.sacredheartcatholiccloudcroft.org

Office hours: Monday-Wednesday
(at Immaculate Conception Church)
(575) 437-3291

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (closed 12-1:00 p.m.)

Thursday and Friday 9:00-12:00 p.m.

Pastor: Very Rev. Martin Cornejo

Vicar: Fr. Emmanuel Stephen

Deacon: Gary Perkins

Sunday Mass: 9:30 a.m.

Confessions prior to Mass

Wednesday Mass: 9:30 a.m.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

and Rosary: Wednesday 9:00 a.m.

Anointing of the sick: On the

First Wednesday of the month

ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JUNE 13, 2021

They that are planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God.
—Psalm 92:14

Sunday June 13, For all the souls in purgatory
Wed. June 16, For our clergy

Church Committee Members
Chair - Joe Barcevac
Vice-Chair - Robert Balog
Secretary - Mira Pepper
Finance - Steve Pepper
Social Coordinator - Lourdes Blette

Altar Servers (John Conner 687-2144)
June 13,

EMOHC (Teresa Stevenson (281) 772-7450)
June 13, Tim Burkhard

Reader (Teresa Stevenson (281) 772-7450)
June 13, Kathy Burkhard

Ushers (John Conner 687-2144)
June 13,

Please remember to notify Teresa Stevenson or John Conner if you are unable to serve as Scheduled, even if you have arranged for someone to take your place.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

GOD'S TIME

We either pay attention to or ignore "clock time" as we play in the summer sun and note the earth's tilt and the lengthening days. We live by time. We reckon time in seconds and minutes and hours, or we use broader chunks like supertime and summertime. God keeps another sort of time. God speaks to us of "saving time," that is, the time of salvation. This sense of time is called kairo, and this time is always now, always present and available, always revealing, often surprising. This Sunday's readings alert us to the reality and the import of God's time. Ezekiel and the Gospel of Mark remind us that our labor and our plotting and our planning rest in God. For God takes our smallest efforts and makes of them great works. Paul points us to the "harvest" time, urges us to be watchful for its coming, and calls us to recognize that we must spend our time pleasing God.



our parish
mission
statement

We are a community that comes together to model Jesus to all peoples by addressing physical concerns and spiritual matters, and to do as Jesus did, giving everything to bring people into a closer relationship with God, in celebration.

Jennifer Madl,
Ceci Borunda,
Leonor Rubalcava,
Elia Medina,
Helen Rigger,
Yvett Tomeo,
Margaret Bevins,
Dieter deBeyer,
Velia Perea,
Lourdes Blette
Brendan Cronander-Ford,
Ann Blanchard,
Phyllis Maclin,
Lynn Skinner,
Robert Langford,
Carol Aberg,
Manry Family,
Susan Whalen
Bill Crouch
Mike Blette



The Diocese of Las Cruces will follow the CDC and state guidelines. Be notified that masks and social distancing are not required for those who have been fully vaccinated.

Fr. Kevin Waymel
Vicar General & Chancellor
Diocese of Las Cruces

2021 The Year of St. Joseph

Every 19th. day of each month:
EVENINGS OF REFLECTION WITH ST. JOSEPH.



at 7:00 pm at the ICC
RELIGIOUS ED bldg.
(711 New York Ave)

June 6, 2021

Collections

General Collection	\$1,026 .00
Building Fund	\$ 959.00

Today's second collection goes to **The Good Shepherd Collection.**

Next week's second collection goes to **Building Fund.**

SUGGESTION

We have a suggestion box for any new ideas or questions you may have for our church. The box is located on the table next to the kitchen.

