

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 17:22–24

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel

The LORD God said:

“I will cut a tender twig from the very top of a cedar tree
and plant it on the peak of a tall mountain.

I will plant it on the highest mountain in Israel.

It will put out branches

and grow into a beautiful and useful cedar tree.

All kinds of birds will find shelter under it and shade in its branches.

“Every tree in the forest will then know that I the LORD,
bring down tall trees and make short trees grow tall.

I dry up green trees

and make dried up trees turn green again.

I, the LORD, have spoken!

And I will keep my word.”

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 92:1-2, 12-13

All: *Lord, it is good
to give thanks to you.*

*It is wonderful to be grateful
and to sing your praises,
LORD Most High!
It is wonderful each morning
to tell about your love
and at night to announce
how faithful you are.*

All: *Lord, it is good
to give thanks to you.*

*Good people will prosper
like palm trees,
and they will grow strong
like the cedars of Lebanon.
They will take root
in your house, LORD God,
and they will do well.*

All: *Lord, it is good
to give thanks to you.*

SECOND READING
2 Corinthians 5:6–10

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:
Always be cheerful!
As long as we are in these bodies,
we are away from the Lord.
But we live by faith, not by what we see.

We should be cheerful,
because we would rather leave these bodies
and be at home with the Lord.
But whether we are at home with the Lord
or away from him,
we still try our best to please him.
After all, Christ will judge each of us
for the good or the bad that we do
while living in these bodies.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL
Mark 4:30–34

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus said: “What is God’s kingdom like?
What story can I use to explain it?
It is like what happens
 when a mustard seed is planted in the ground.
It is the smallest seed in all the world.
But once it is planted,
 it grows larger than any garden plant.
It even puts out branches
 that are big enough for birds to rest in its shade.”

Jesus used many other stories when he spoke to the people,
 and he taught them as much as they could understand.
He did not tell them anything without using stories.
But when he was alone with his disciples,
 he explained everything to them.

The Gospel of the Lord.