

ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR B

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

God,
you are full of power
and might and we are small
and not very strong.
Give us a share
in your power,
so that like a small seed,
your family may grow
all over the world
and more and more people
come to know about you
and Jesus, your Son,
who lives with you
forever and ever.

FOCUS OF THE READINGS:

Both readings focus on the final, glorious coming of the reign of God. In the first reading, the "little branch" which God will take from a tall cedar, represents the remnant, the small group of Israelites who have remained faithful throughout the exile. But small though it may be, from it will come a "strong and beautiful tree. . . where all kinds of birds will build their nests." The focus of Ezekiel is that God will bring to glorious manifestation what is *already present* in the small remnant.

The focus of the Gospel is the same. The final glorious reign of God is *already present* in Jesus and in his followers. It is often small and hidden (mustard seed) and is not always easily detected, but will one day come to full growth in all its glory and splendor. God will bring to glorious manifestation what is *already present* in Jesus and his followers.

FIRST READING: *Ezekiel 17:22-24*

This is a reading from the prophet Ezekiel.

Our God says,

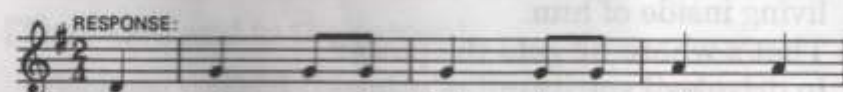
I will take a tiny branch
from the very top of a cedar tree,
and I will plant it on a high mountain.
It will become a strong and beautiful tree
and good fruit will grow on its branches.
All kinds of animals will live in its shade
and birds will build their nests
in its branches.
And all the trees of the fields
will know that I am God.
I make high trees small and small trees high.
I dry up green trees
and make trees that are dried up
bloom again.

I am God, and I will do what I have said.

This is the Word of God.

RESPONSE: *Psalm 104*

RESPONSE:



We praise you, O God, all your works are
won-der - ful, won-der - ful are your works.

VERSES:



1. It is good to give thanks, to sing your
2. How — won-der - ful are the things you
to Response



1. praise, sing — praise for your ho - ly name!
2. do! All you do for us makes us glad.

