



Eleventh Sunday in ordinary Time – Year B (P 668) – 17/3/2018

Gospel Acclamation

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Cf Ps 26: 7-9

O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you, be my help. Do not abandon or forsake me, O Lord, my Saviour.

FIRST READING 17:22-24 Page 669

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel.

I have made a small tree great.

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 withered green. I, the Lord, have spoken, and I will do it."

The word of the Lord.



Responsorial Psalm

Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

SECOND READING

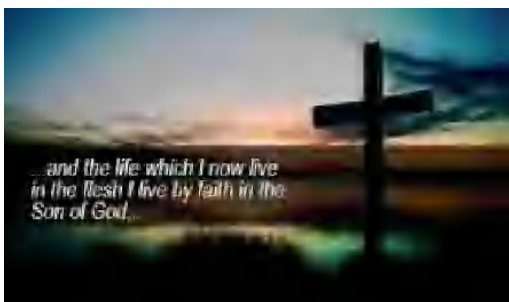
A reading from the 2nd letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

5:6-10 page 670

Whether we are living in the body or exiled from it, we are intent on pleasing the Lord.

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.



Alleluia, alleluia!

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; all who come to him will live for ever. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Page 670 4:26-34

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

The mustard of seed, the smallest of all the seeds, grows into the biggest shrub of all.

★ 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 at 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.



COMMUNION ANTIPHON

There is one thing, I ask of the Lord, only this do I seek; to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

At this reception of your Holy Communion, O Lord, foreshadows the union of the faithful in you, so may it bring about unity in your Church.

Through Christ our Lord.

