

# FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

17<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2018

## First Reading

*Ezekiel 17. 22-24*

### **The Book Of The Prophet Ezekiel**

22 Thus says the Lord God:

I myself will take a sprig  
from the lofty top of a cedar;  
I will set it out.

I will break off a tender one  
from the topmost of its young twigs;  
I myself will plant it  
on a high and lofty mountain.

23 On the mountain height of Israel  
I will plant it,  
in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit,  
and become a noble cedar.

Under it every kind of bird will live;  
in the shade of its branches will nest  
winged creatures of every kind.

24 All the trees of the field shall know  
that I am the Lord.

I bring low the high tree,  
I make high the low tree;  
I dry up the green tree  
and make the dry tree flourish.

I the Lord have spoken;  
I will accomplish it.

Hear the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

## Psalm 92. 1- 4, 12-15

- 1 It is good to give thanks to the Lord:  
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;
- 2 to declare your steadfast love in the morning:  
and your faithfulness by night,
- 3 to the music of the lute and the harp:  
to the melody of the lyre.

4 For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work:  
at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

12 The righteous flourish like the palm tree:  
and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

13 They are planted in the house of the Lord:  
they flourish in the courts of our God.

14 In old age they still produce fruit:  
they are always green and full of sap,

15 showing that the Lord is upright:  
he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.

## **Second Reading**

## ***2 Corinthians 5.6-10 (11-13)14-17***

### **The second letter of Paul The Apostle to the Corinthians**

<sup>6</sup> So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—<sup>7</sup> for we walk by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup> Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup> So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. <sup>10</sup> For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil. <sup>11</sup> Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. <sup>12</sup> We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. <sup>13</sup> For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. <sup>14</sup> For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. <sup>15</sup> And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. <sup>16</sup> From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. <sup>17</sup> So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

Hear the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

## **Gospel**

**Mark 4.26-34**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark  
**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

<sup>26</sup> He also said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, <sup>27</sup> and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. <sup>28</sup> The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. <sup>29</sup> But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.” <sup>30</sup> He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? <sup>31</sup> It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; <sup>32</sup> yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.” <sup>33</sup> With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; <sup>34</sup> he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

## **Sentence**

In Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.

2 Corinthians 5.19

## **Prayer of the day**

Almighty God,  
without you we are unable to please you:  
mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit  
may in all things direct and rule our hearts;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **Supplementary Readings**

1 Samuel 16.14-23

Psalm 20

Mark 4.13-23

## **Prayer Response**

Lord, hear us,

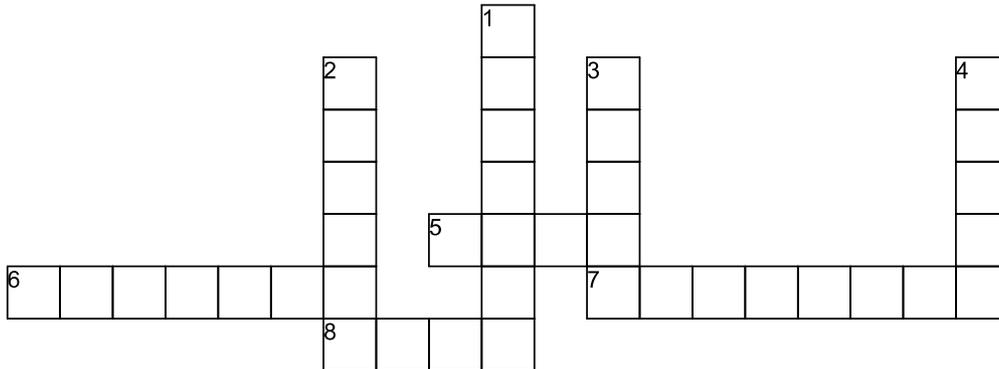
**Lord, graciously hear us.**



# The Parables of Jesus

Jesus used many similar stories and illustrations to teach the people as much as they could understand. Mark 4:33 (NLT)

This puzzle is based on the Parable of the Mustard Seed. Mark 4:30-34 (NIV)



## ACROSS

5. A small grain of a plant placed in the ground for growing another plant
6. A story told by Jesus to help explain his teachings
7. Not as big as any of the others
8. The place where birds lay eggs or give birth to their young

## DOWN

1. Bigger than any of the others
2. An area where plants are grown
3. Animals that have wings and are covered with feathers
4. A living thing that grows in the ground, usually with leaves or flowers

SEED  
PLANT

SMALLEST  
BIRDS

PARABLE  
LARGEST

NEST  
GARDEN