



The Catholic Community of Divine Savior

# Family Faith Focus

Volume 9, Issue 46

June 13, 2021

## Dates to Remember

- June 12: 4:00 PM Mass
- June 13: 9:00 AM Mass
- Please see our parish website for reservation information and links to view Sunday or weekday Masses online.

### Parable

A method of teaching through a short story that uses ordinary objects or familiar actions to make a comparison to a deeper truth or reality. Jesus used this story-telling device to reveal the Kingdom of God to his followers and to lead them to thinking and acting in a new and different way.

### Receiving the Seed of God's Word

Today's parable reminds us that we are the soil where the Lord tirelessly sows the seed of his Word and his love. How do we receive it? How is our heart? Which soil does it resemble: that of the path, the rocks, the thorns? We must become good soil with neither thorns nor stones, but tilled and cultivated with care, to bear good fruit for us and for others. And we too are sowers. God sows good seed, and we can ask: which type of seed comes out of our heart and our mouth? Our words can do much good and also much harm. They can heal and wound, encourage and dishearten. What counts is not what goes in but what comes out of the mouth and the heart.

—Pope Francis

## Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Mark 4: 26-34**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

Jesus said to the crowds:

“This is how it is with the kingdom of God; it is as if a man were to scatter seed on the land and would sleep and rise night and day and through it all the seed would sprout and grow, he knows not how.

Of its own accord the land yields fruit, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the grain is ripe, he wields the sickle at once, for the harvest has come.”

He said,

“To what shall we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable can we use for it?

It is like a mustard seed that, when it is sown in the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on the earth.

But once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the sky can dwell in its shade.”

With many such parables

he spoke the word to them as they were able to understand it.

Without parables he did not speak to them,

but to his own disciples he explained everything in private.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

*It is good to give thanks to the Lord,*

*to sing praise to your name, Most High,*

*To proclaim your kindness at dawn*

*and your faithfulness throughout the night.*

*Psalms 92*

The words of Psalm 92, the responsorial psalm we sing at this Sunday's liturgy, are a song of praise to our Creator God. How do we give thanks to the Lord, Most High for his goodness and faithfulness to us? Do we pay attention to God's grace working in our lives? In what ways do we try to participate the growth of God's kingdom?

# Sunday Gospel Connection: June 13, 2021

## Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B

### Mark 4: 26-34

**Gospel Background:** After Lent, the Easter season, and three Sundays of feast days—Pentecost, Most Holy Trinity, and Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ—the Church returns to Ordinary Time. This Sunday’s Gospel from Mark carries a significant message regarding faith and the Kingdom of God.

In Mark’s Gospel, Jesus appears reluctant to reveal his identity as the Son of God. After performing miracles of healing, he warns those cured to tell no one (see Mark 1:44, 3:12, 5:43, 7:36, and 8:26). Also, when preaching, Jesus chooses to speak to the crowds in parables, leaving them to discern his message. Only to his disciples does he explain the parable’s meaning, and he does this in private at a later time.



Today’s Gospel Reading consists of two parables about seeds. In the first, Jesus tells those gathered that this is “how it is with the kingdom of God.” A man scatters seed which over time sprouts and develops. Then when the grain is ripe, the man harvests his crop. The emphasis in the parable is on the seed, which seemingly has the power to grow on its own. In this it is like the Kingdom of God. While on earth, Jesus planted the seeds of the kingdom by his life, miracles, teaching, and suffering. However, the kingdom is not yet fully established. Although already present in Jesus and his group of twelve, it has yet to come to fruition; just as the seed in the parable needs time to grow, so does God’s kingdom.

The second parable focuses on the tiny mustard seed. Though not the smallest of all seeds, it is most likely the smallest that a first-century farmer in Jesus’ part of the world would have sown. Small as the mustard seed is, it develops into a tree. Though the mustard tree generally averages only nine to twelve feet in height, it has a wide expanse and provides a nesting place for birds. Just as the tree welcomes the birds, so is God’s kingdom welcoming and open to many.

These parables help us discern something about the kingdom of God and our own faith. In God we live and move and have our being, but God is a mystery and his kingdom, though present, has not yet come into its fullness. Today, the Kingdom of God is present in the Church. The mission of proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom given to the Apostles is now given to us. But just as seeds need time to come to fruition, so does the Kingdom of God. That is why in the Lord’s Prayer, we pray, “thy kingdom come.” We know that it will come in its fullness at the end of time. All we need is faith.

**Family Connection:** Church documents call the Christian family the “domestic church.” This is both a compliment and a call to commitment. Because the family is a community formed in love and dedicated to the physical and spiritual growth of its members, it is a miniature version of the Kingdom of God on earth. This Sunday’s Gospel Reading, Mark 4:26–34, consists of two parables that Jesus used to help us discern the mystery of the Kingdom of God. The beginning of the kingdom is compared to a tiny seed that over time matures and ripens. Many of the things we do within the family seem insignificant. They are part of our daily activity and attract little attention. Yet they show our love and concern for one another. According to the Gospel, it’s these small things that yield big results, acting as significant contributions to the growth of God’s kingdom on earth. The growth of the seed illustrates the nature and the results of a strong faith.

Read aloud together the Gospel of Mark 4:26–34. Consider how your family’s concerns reflect the Church’s concerns for those members who are poor, forgotten, hungry, ill, shunned, or lonely. Together think of a specific action that you can do to assist a person in your extended family, neighborhood, or parish. Now pray together the Lord’s Prayer, pausing briefly to consider the import of the words “thy kingdom come.” Each evening this week as you gather for supper, share with one another the simple acts of love you witnessed within the family that day.

For more information and Sunday Connection resources visit:

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/11thsundayinordinarytimesundayconnection/>

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