

## THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

June 17, 2018

The Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ezekiel 17:22-24 + 2 Corinthians 5:6-10 + Mark 4:26-34



**Reflection by: Sister Elise Redmerski, OP**

Our first reading for today from Ezekiel speaks of majestic fruit-bearing trees that offer refuge to all 'winged things.' The second reading from the second letter to the Corinthians tells us that we are courageous and walk by faith and not by sight.

As I looked at the readings for today with all the imagery of seeds and planting, I couldn't help but think of the past winter. After a long gray dismal winter, the city is filled with magnificent tints and shades of lush green trees and all kinds of vegetation. When did it happen? I didn't see it taking place, but there it is!

The gospel continues the imagery of planting and growth in the parable of the mustard seed. This parable compares the Kingdom of God to a mustard seed. You can barely see a mustard seed and if you drop it you might not find it. Yet, that tiny seed is capable of growing into the largest of plants. The potential of a mustard seed or any seed is amazing.

Farmers are well aware of the 'miracles' a seed produces and stand in awe at the growth that takes place during that growing season. Like the farmer, we too plant tiny seeds in the lives of those we encounter. But unlike the farmer, we may not see the result of a season's growth. Yet, as we walk through life we continue to plant those tiny 'mustard seeds' by faith and not by sight.