

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

June 13, 2021

The Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

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



Reflection by: Sister Patricia Wormann, OP

Recently, by livestream, I was able to watch the funeral and burial of a friend in Washington State. On the walk from the monastery to the cemetery I was awestruck by the breathtaking beauty of the majestic cedars and pines. Everything about them their strength, greenness, and tranquility invited me to just savor the moment. In praying the scriptures for this Sunday, the first reading from Ezekiel and Psalm 92 brought back that powerful experience. However, the gospel paints a different picture with the tiny mustard seed and its growth. In doing a little research I found that some see the mustard plant as an invasive weed. It can grow to be about 6 feet and most times it grows wild – a vast difference from the Washington trees and much less quixotic than the picture Jesus paints in the parable. Yet he says the kingdom of God is like this unruly seed-grown tree!

Our reading from Second Corinthians reminds us “We walk by faith and not by sight.” We sometimes romanticize the kingdom of God. Perhaps that’s why Jesus describes it like this unruly seed plant that does not seem promising but holds such promise. The kingdom of God is not about some form of perfection or some future reality. The kingdom of God is a present reality. In the midst of our brokenness and vulnerability as individuals and as a Church, our God stands in our midst. It is not an earned or predictable reality but one that is our strength when things seem dim. Our tiny seed of faith allows us to proclaim hope to a time and world that aches for assurance that despite the storms and questions all will be well. Our hope and trust are in the One who calls us by name and whose Spirit fills and animates the Church throughout all time.