



# Eleventh Sunday Of The Year

## Small Beginnings

### Introduction

Everybody knows that if you plant an acorn in the ground, given time, it will grow into an oak tree. Yet nobody knows how. And how extraordinary that a huge oak should have such humble origins. Jesus says this is how it is with the region of God in our lives and in our world. It begins in a small way, but given time, it grows into something great. Is this growth happening in my life? Am I growing into a more loving, compassionate, Christ like person?

### First Reading (Ezekiel 17: 22-24)

The prophet foretells the downfall of Jerusalem. At the same time he tells of a restoration that will be brought about by a member of the chosen people (namely, the Messiah), who will set up a universal kingdom.

### Second Reading (2 Cor 5: 6-10)

St Paul says that his priority at all times is to please the Lord. Hence he has no fears of appearing before him.

### Gospel (Mark 4: 26-34)

This contains two parables about the slow but steady growth of the Kingdom of God from insignificant beginnings. It is God who brings about this growth.

### Prayer Of The Faithful

Let us pray for the growth of God's kingdom on earth – a kingdom of justice, love, and peace for all his children.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.

For the Church: that Christ may sustain it in its task of being a transforming leaven in the modern world. We pray in faith.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.

For the world and its leaders: that they may further the kingdom of God by promoting harmony and justice among peoples. We pray in faith.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.



## Liturgy Cycle B

For all those who are victims of unjust situations: that God may sustain them in their struggle to achieve their human rights. We pray in faith.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.

As a forest cannot be green unless the individual trees are green, we pray that we may realize that each of us has a part to play in making the Kingdom of God a reality in lives of the people. We pray in faith.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.

### Communion Reflection

*A soldier, recuperating from a war injury, looks out the hospital window.*

It was springtime and the trees and shrubs  
were filling up with leaves and blossoms.  
He reflected on their simple beauty.

As he looked at them he noticed  
how birds of every description  
moved freely in and out among them—  
robins, and sparrows, and wrens,  
blackbirds, and thrushes, and wagtails.

Here they held their various branch meetings.  
They shared the shelter and the fruit,  
and they still managed to live at peace with one another.  
From here their music went forth  
to fill the world with its joyous sound.  
If they can do this, why can't we?

Suddenly the words of Christ came alive for him:  
"The Kingdom of heaven is like a tree  
in whose branches all the birds of the sky  
can find a home".

And a deep longing filled his soul.  
He longed to belong to such a kingdom,  
to open his arms and embrace all his brothers and sisters.  
And the bitterness caused by his injury  
suddenly flowed away from him, and he was healed  
and at peace with himself and the world.