

# **Readings for June 16, 2024**

## **Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**

### **First Reading: Ezekiel 17:22-24**

<sup>22</sup>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.

<sup>23</sup>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.

<sup>24</sup>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.

## **Psalm: Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15**

<sup>1</sup>It is a good thing to give thanks <sup>l</sup> to the LORD,  
to sing praise to your name, <sup>l</sup> O Most High;

<sup>2</sup>**to herald your love <sup>l</sup> in the morning  
and your faithful- <sup>l</sup> ness at night;**

<sup>3</sup>on the psaltery, and <sup>l</sup> on the lyre,  
and to the melody <sup>l</sup> of the harp.

<sup>4</sup>**For you have made me glad by your <sup>l</sup> acts, O LORD;  
and I shout for joy because of the works <sup>l</sup> of your hands. R**

<sup>12</sup>The righteous shall flourish <sup>l</sup> like a palm tree,  
and shall spread abroad like a ce- <sup>l</sup> dar of Lebanon.

<sup>13</sup>**Those who are planted in the house <sup>l</sup> of the LORD  
shall flourish in the courts <sup>l</sup> of our God;**

<sup>14</sup>they shall still bear fruit <sup>l</sup> in old age;  
they shall be <sup>l</sup> green and succulent;

<sup>15</sup>**that they may show how up- <sup>l</sup> right the LORD is,  
my rock, in whom there is <sup>l</sup> no injustice. R**

## **Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17**

<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 the Lord. <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>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 the one 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!

## **Gospel: Mark 4:26-34**

<sup>26</sup>Jesus said, "The dominion 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, the sower 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 the sower goes in with a sickle, because the harvest has come."

<sup>30</sup>Jesus also said, "With what can we compare the dominion 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 Jesus 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.