

tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father...

Intercessions

The Lord is our one sure defense. We implore him:

R/ Defend us in battle!

When we are about to lose courage, – make us know your power. **R/**

When we see injustice, – give us the wisdom and strength to protect the weak. **R/**

When popular opinion contradicts God's law, – make us unafraid to stand up for the truth. **R/**

Personal intentions

Our Father....

Almighty Father, you are our strength in the fight against evil. Guard us against all the deceits of the enemy, that we may serve you in this world and in the next. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, June 16, 2024
Eleventh Sunday of Ordinary Time

Reading 1 **Ezekiel 17:22-24**

Thus says the Lord God:/ I, too, will take from the crest of the cedar,/ from its topmost branches tear off a tender shoot,/ and plant it on a high and lofty mountain;/ on the mountain heights of Israel I will plant it./ It shall put forth branches and bear fruit,/ and become a majestic cedar./ Birds of every kind shall dwell beneath it,/ every winged thing in the shade of its boughs./ And all the trees of the field shall know/ that I, the Lord,/ bring low the high tree,/ lift high the lowly tree,/ wither up the green tree,/ and make the withered tree bloom./ As I, the Lord, have spoken, so will I do.

Reading 2 **2 Corinthians 5:6-10**

Brothers and sisters: We are always courageous, although we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk

by faith, not by sight. Yet we are courageous, and we would rather leave the body and go home to the Lord. Therefore, we aspire to please him, whether we are at home or away. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

Gospel **Mark 4:26-34**

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.

Men of St. Joseph Prayer

St. Joseph, help me to be like you. Help me to be obedient to the teachings of the Church and faithful to God's commands. Help me to patiently endure my cross each day. Let me be a model of holiness and a pillar of virtue. I solemnly promise to embrace God's will and I accept the challenge to work tirelessly for my family's salvation. Be my guide and companion on this journey. St. Joseph, terror of demons, pray for us!

*Prayer for the Morning text used with permission of
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