

# The Mustard Seed



**Leader:** Let us remember that we are in the Holy Presence of God.

## Opening Prayer

**All:** God of the inner light, come to us on the golden rays of the morning, warming moods that are frosty, enlightening minds that are gloomy; and, as the sun swings higher, so may our lives rise to you in the active praise of this day's duties. Spirit of new life, grant unto us this day the grace to recognize new life breaking through in unlikely events; and, in so recognizing it, to be ready to trust it and delight in it, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Reading: Mark 4:30-32

He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and put forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

## Reading from St. John Baptist de La Salle

Be convinced of what St. Paul says, that you plant and water the seed, but it is God through Jesus Christ who makes it grow, that he is the one who brings your work to fulfillment. So, when you encounter some difficulty in the situations that you encounter each day, turn to God with confidence. Earnestly ask Jesus Christ to make his Spirit come alive in you, since he has chosen you to do his work.

## Reflection

### Response from a prayer by Archbishop Oscar Romero

**Reader 1:** It helps now and then to step back and take the long view. The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision.

**All:** Lord, give us vision to see the next step.

**Reader 2:** We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work. Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of saying that the kingdom always lies beyond us. No statement says all that could be said. Nor prayer fully expresses our faith. No confession brings perfection, no pastoral visit brings wholeness. No program accomplishes the Church's mission. Not set of goals and objectives includes everything.

**All:** Lord, give us enough wisdom to be content with the next step.

**Reader 3:** This is what we are about: We plant seeds that one day will grow.  
We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.  
We lay foundations that will need further development. We provide yeast  
that produces effects far beyond our capability.

**All: Lord, give us enough patience to wait for the next step.**

**Reader 4:** We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing  
that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well. It may be  
incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity  
for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.

**All: Lord, give us enough confidence to take the next step.**

**Reader 5:** We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the  
master builder and the worker. We are workers, not master builders;  
ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own.

**All: Lord, give us enough humility to let others take the next step.**

### **Closing Prayer**

**All:**

God, loving Father,  
There is nothing that can separate us  
from your providence  
or the love of Christ Jesus,  
seasons pass, times change,  
your care of us remains,  
transparent now and often  
in the strong, supportive love of friends.  
With you tender mercy, visit us,  
to guide our feet in the way of peace.  
Guard our lives,  
our going and coming,  
now and forever. Amen.

**Leader:** St. John Baptist de La Salle,

**All:** Pray for us.

**Leader:** Live, Jesus, in our hearts.

**All:** Forever!

(Arranged by Brother Louis Welker)