

# ICHTHUS

SUNDAY 13 JUNE 2021

11TH SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME

Year B



I am growing stronger in God's love every day!



## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you; be my help.  
Do not abandon or forsake me, O God, my Saviour!

We say these words or sing a hymn as the priest approaches the altar.

## COLLECT

O God, strength of those who hope in you,  
graciously hear our pleas,  
and, since without you mortal frailty can do nothing,  
grant us always the help of your grace,  
that in following your commands  
we may please you by our resolve and our deeds...

We ask for God's help. Listen now to the priest as he offers this prayer.



## FIRST READING EZEKIEL 17:22-24

Ezekiel paints a vivid picture of a strong, beautiful tree. The prophet describes how God will take a healthy shoot and plant it in a safe place. It is going to grow branches and bear fruit, giving shade

and protection for birds. Everyone will know that God gives life to the earth and everything in it. Furthermore, this tree is an image of the line of kings God will provide to take care of the people of Israel.

LOOK at the reader and LISTEN. Ezekiel uses words to paint a picture of God's love and care.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALM 91

It is good to give you thanks, O Lord.

The cantor or psalmist sings or says the psalm. Listen to the verses, and then respond by using these words.



## SECOND READING 2 CORINTHIANS 5:6-10

Paul is confident that he will share in Jesus' resurrection and enjoy life after death. Here he is reminding the people of Corinth that living as God asks is all we can do. If we try to do

what God has asked we can be confident of enjoying life with God too. Whatever we do, we do because we want to please God. Everyone will be rewarded, just as we deserve to be.

LOOK at the reader and LISTEN. We want to please God, whatever we are doing.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The seed is the word of God, Christ the sower; whoever finds the seed will remain for ever.

Alleluia!

We give a shout of praise to God, using these words taken from the Bible.



## DO YOU KNOW?

The Church is now in **Ordinary Time**; time to reflect on the wonderful ways **Jesus spread God's love** during his life on earth and how **Jesus is always present** in our lives. The liturgical colour used in this special time is **green, the colour of life and growth**.



## THINK

**God's kingdom** is here with us now - as well being something we will all enjoy fully in the future! **Spreading love, justice and peace** will build God's kingdom. **Tiny acts of kindness make a big difference**. How will we show that Jesus is our king today?



## GOSPEL MARK 4:26-34

The Good News about Jesus is told to us by St Mark.

Just like Ezekiel in our first reading, Jesus uses the imagery of a tree growing to explain a difficult idea. God's kingdom is growing, even if we are not aware of it. The kingdom of God is like a tiny mustard seed. It starts off really small, but grows into "the biggest

shrub of all". The tree's branches give shelter and protection to the all the birds of the air. The kingdom of God may start off as a tiny seed, but it will steadily grow strong. God's kingdom will grow from all the tiny, good and kind things we do.

### STAND to LISTEN

to the priest or deacon as he prepares to read the Gospel.

Before he reads the Gospel, what does the priest do to his forehead, his lips and his heart? Can you copy him?

Listen to the reader as he or she encourages us to pray for situations and people in need. This is a prayer you could say privately.

Watch as the gifts are made ready and the priest washes his hands and prepares for the Eucharistic Prayer.

We listen to the prayer of praise and thanks to God.

You are invited to sing a Communion song or say this verse, which has been especially chosen for today's celebration.



## PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Dear Lord, I am thinking about all the people who grow things for a living. Help them to find joy in their work and send them a good harvest. Lord, hear my prayer.



## OFFERTORY PROCESSION

As we take our gifts of bread, wine and money to the altar, think about a time when you were fed up this week and then think about being full of hope, looking forward to something good.

Say a little prayer offering these thoughts up to God.



## THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Today's special prayer thanks God for fulfilling all God's promises to us.

What can you give special thanks for today?



## THE LORD'S PRAYER

As the priest extends his hands, we say the prayer that Jesus taught us.

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

There is one thing I ask of the Lord, only this do I seek: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.



## MY PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Thank you, Jesus, for loving and caring for me. Help my roots to go deep into your love so that I will always stay firm in my faith. Amen.



We take Jesus with us to carry on the work that he did on earth, until we meet again next Sunday.

Go in peace.



PRAY

"The birds of the air can shelter in its shade."

Use your imagination to pray. Imagine you are sitting in the branches of the huge shrub. Feel the shade of the leaves. Know that you are safe in God's love.



DO

See if you can go tree spotting in the playground, park or countryside. How many different varieties can you find?



# IXΘΥΣ

is the Greek word for "fish" and was used in the catacombs as a sign for early Christians. It is made up from the first letter of five Greek titles for the Lord:

- I (Jesus)
- X (Christos)
- Θ (Theou/God's)
- Υ (Uios/Son)
- Σ (Soter/Saviour)

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publications

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