

## YEAR B, PROPER 6, SUNDAY: MASS

*The First Lesson. The Reader begins*

### **A Reading from the Book of Ezekiel**

In the eleventh year, in the third month, on the first day of the month, the word of the LORD came to me: “Son of man, say to Pharaoh king of Egypt and to his multitude: ‘Whom are you like in your greatness? Behold, I will liken you to a cedar in Lebanon, with fair branches and forest shade, and of great height, its top among the clouds. The waters nourished it, the deep made it grow tall, making its rivers flow round the place of its planting, sending forth its streams to all the trees of the forest. So it towered high above all the trees of the forest; its boughs grew large and its branches long, from abundant water in its shoots. All the birds of the air made their nests in its boughs; under its branches all the beasts of the field brought forth their young; and under its shadow dwelt all great nations. Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: Because it towered high and set its top among the clouds, and its heart was proud of its height, I will give it into the hand of a mighty one of the nations; he shall surely deal with it as its wickedness deserves. I have cast it

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EZEKIEL 31:1–6, 10–14; PSALM 92:1–4\*; 2 CORINTHIANS 5:1–10; MARK 4:1–2A, 9–12, 26–34\*

*WE INCLUDE MARK 4:1–2A TO INTRODUCE THE SETTING AND MARK 4:9–12 TO HEAR JESUS’ EXPLANATION FOR WHY THOSE OUTSIDE THE DOMINION OF GOD CAN NOT PERCEIVE ITS PRESENCE.*

out. Foreigners, the most terrible of the nations, will cut it down and leave it. On the mountains and in all the valleys its branches will fall, and its boughs will lie broken in all the watercourses of the land; and all the peoples of the earth will go from its shadow and leave it. Upon its ruin will dwell all the birds of the air, and upon its branches will be all the beasts of the field. All this is in order that no trees by the waters may grow to lofty height or set their tops among the clouds, and that no trees that drink water may reach up to them in height; for they are all given over to death, to the nether world among mortal men, with those who go down to the Pit.’ ”

*The Reader concludes*

The Word of the Lord.

## **Psalm 92:1–4**

*The Reader says*

Please join me in reading Psalm 92, verses 1 through 4, found in the red Prayer Book beginning on page 720.

*(The Reader repeats the above information as needed.)*

1 It is a good thing to give thanks to the LORD, \*  
and to sing praises to your Name, O Most High;

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- 2 To tell of your loving-kindness early in the  
morning \*  
and of your faithfulness in the night season;
- 3 On the psaltery, and on the lyre, \*  
and to the melody of the harp.
4. For you have made me glad by your acts,  
O LORD; \*  
and I shout for joy because of the works of your  
hands.

*The Second Lesson. The Reader begins*

**A Reading from the**

**Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians**

We know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. Here indeed we groan, and long to put on our heavenly dwelling, so that by putting it on we may not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we sigh with anxiety; not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this

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very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. So we are always of good courage; 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. We are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive good or evil, according to what he has done in the body.

*The Reader concludes*                      The Word of the Lord.

## **The Gospel Acclamation**

*The Reader leads the appointed acclamation.*

*Reader*                      Alleluia.

*People*                      Alleluia.

*Reader*                      Open my eyes, O Lord, \*  
                                    that I may see the wonders of you law.

*People*                      Alleluia.

*The Reader returns to his or her seat.*

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## The Holy Gospel

*The Minister says*

The Lord be with you.

*People*

And also with you.

*Minister*

✠ The Holy Gospel of our Lord  
Jesus Christ according to Mark.

*People*

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Again Jesus began to teach beside the sea. And a very large crowd gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat in it on the sea; and the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. And he taught them many things in parables. And he said, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.” And when he was alone, those who were about him with the twelve asked him concerning the parables. And he said to his disciples, “To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything is in parables; so that they may indeed see but not perceive, and may indeed hear but not understand; lest they should turn again, and be forgiven.” And he also said to them, “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed upon the ground, and should sleep and rise night and day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he knows not how. The earth produces of itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle,

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because the harvest has come.” And he said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? It is like a grain of 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 puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.” With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.  
*The Minister says*            The Gospel of the Lord.

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