

Prayer Service

Prayer Leader: Let us join our hearts and minds in prayer:

Loving God, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier,
You have called us to be your own. Through moments in our lives of joy, pain, hope, or disappointment,
you walk with us as our brother and Lord each step of the way. Give us confidence that your gift of faith
can sustain us through even the greatest obstacles. Even in the most difficult struggles of life, faith renews
our spirits. We pray that in our moments of doubt, you will help our unbelief. We ask this through Christ
our Lord.

Now, let us listen to the Word of God taken from the Gospel of Mark (4:30–32).

Reader:

[Jesus] 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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer Leader: (commentary) The parable of the mustard seed reminds us that even what seems to be a small amount of faith can lead to something much bigger than we could ever imagine. As the mustard tree lives through different seasons, we too experience different seasons of life. Some seasons are mild while others are harsh. In the end, just as the birds of the sky rest securely in the branches of the mustard tree, we trust in faith that we will rest securely in the Kingdom of God.

(After a few moments of silent reflection:)

In closing, let us pray the Lord’s Prayer together:

All: Our Father . . .

