FIRST READING

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.

Ezekiel 17.22-24

I will make high the low tree.

22 Thus says the Lord God:
“l myself will take a sprig
from the lofty top of a cedar;
I will set it out.
I will break off a tender one
from the topmost of its young twigs;
I myself will plant it
on a high and lofty mountain.

23 “On the mountain height of Israel
I will plant it,
in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit,
and become a noble cedar.
Under it every kind of bird will live;
in the shade of its branches will nest
winged creatures of every kind.

24 “All the trees of the field shall know
that I am the Lord.
I bring low the high tree,
I make high the low tree;
I dry up the green tree
and make the dry tree flourish.
I the Lord have spoken;
I will accomplish it.”

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.
RESPONSORIAL PSALM
Psalm 92.1-2, 12-13, 14-15 (R.1)

R. Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

1 It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;
2 to declare your steadfast love in the morning,
and your faithfulness by night. R.

12 The righteous flourish like the palm tree,
and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.
13 They are planted in the house of the Lord;
they flourish in the courts of our God. R.
14 In old age they still produce fruit;
they are always green and full of sap,
15 showing that the Lord is upright;
he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him. R.

SECOND READING
2 Corinthians 5.6-10

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Brothers and sisters,
6 we are always confident,
even though we know that while we are at home in the body
we are away from the Lord—
7 for we walk by faith, not by sight.
8 Yes, we do have confidence,
and we would rather be away from the body
and at home with the Lord.
9 So whether we are at home or away,
we make it our aim to please him.
10 For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ,
so that each may receive recompense
for what has been done in the body,
whether good or evil.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.
The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower;
al all who come to him will live for ever.
Luke 7.29-30

Jesus 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 puts forth large branches,
so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”