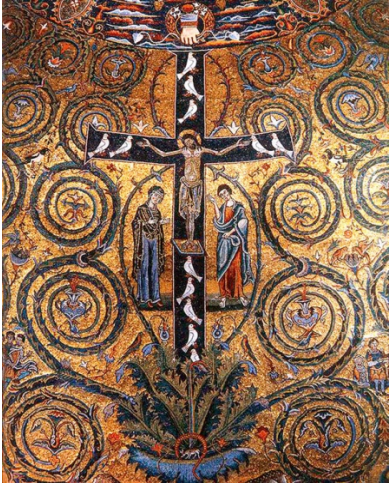



| | | |
|------------------------------------|--|---|
| | The parable of the mustard seed | |
| Presence of God | Considering how God looks at me. |  |
| History Matthew 13, 31 – 32 | 31 He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. 32 Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.” | |
| Petition | <i>Lord, may I know you and understand your parables, your message, your wisdom, the way your think and feel more clearly, to love you more deeply and follow you more nearly!</i> | |
| Contemplation | <p>v 31 – 32 The story <i>Do you remember the parable of the sower? Who was the sower? What did the seed represent? And the soil? What kind of soil do we want to be?</i> <i>After Jesus told them that parable, He told them that they should be good soil for the Word of God to grow and produce a crop. On this occasion, Jesus tells us that the Kingdom of God is like a tiny seed of mustard.</i> <i>Close your eyes and imagine a man planting a tiny seed, so small that it is almost imperceptible... and this seeds grows little by little...</i> <i>Imagine how he patiently waits for the seed to grow; and once it does, it becomes such a big tree that the birds come and perch in its branches... what once was a little seed is now a fruitful tree that gives shelter to the birds.</i></p> <p>v 31 – 32 The meaning of the story <i>Is the Kingdom of God a physical place? Or is it a way of living? What is your life like when God reigns in your heart? What would the world be like if God were the King of mankind? Would there be wars, fights, injustice, violence, sorrow? ... The Kingdom of God brings joy, love, peace.</i> <i>Jesus said that the Kingdom of God is like a little seed of mustard, which looks tiny at first but then grows big, and bears fruit and provides the others with shelter.</i> <i>Let's think... What does Jesus want to tell us with this parable? Think about your life....</i> <i>What do birds represent? Who can make their nest in your branches? Who can you hold?</i></p> | <p>You can mimic the actions of the sower, for example: half-close your eyes and look at your hand as if you were trying to see the tiny seed; then do as if you were making a hole, planting the seed, and waiting patiently for the seed to grow day after day... And then one day, there appears a little shoot, a sprout, that turns into a huge tree.</p> <p>The Kingdom of God is not a thing or a place, but a way to live our lives in this world, trying to imitate God's style: loving the others and giving your life for them. We are called to live like the Son of God, who let his Father reign in his life. Thus, God reigns in the lives of those whose acts are dictated by the Spirit, that is Love.</p> |
| Colloquy | <p><i>Let's sit on the carpet, on the promised land, near Jesus, to hear him in the silence of our hearts.</i> <i>Tell Jesus what kind of mustard tree you would like to be... maybe you feel you are still small now, but someday you can grow and bear fruit and shelter the others.</i></p> |  |

