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**Milton Lutheran Parish**

*Gary Schaeffer, Pastor*

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Home Devotional- June 7<sup>th</sup>- 13<sup>th</sup>

## **Introduction**

The mustard seed becomes a great shrub that shelters the birds, recalling ancient images of the tree of life. We'd expect a cedar or a sequoia, but Jesus finds the power of God better imaged in a tiny, no-account seed. It's not the way we expect divine activity to look. Yet the tree of life is here, in the cross around which we gather, the tree into which we are grafted through baptism, the true vine that nourishes us with its fruit in the cup we share. It may not appear all that impressive, but while nobody's looking it grows with a power beyond our understanding.

## **Prayer of the Day**

O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **Readings and Psalm**

### ***Ezekiel 17:22-24***

*The sign of the cedar, planted on the mountain of Israel*

### ***Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15***

*The righteous shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon. (Ps. 92:12)*

### ***2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17***

*In Christ, a new creation*

### ***Mark 4:26-34***

*The parable of the mustard seed*

## **Questions for Reflection**

1. Was Samuel's grief over Saul about the failure of Saul's reign or sympathy for Saul? (1 Sam 15:34–16:13)
2. In the parable of the sower, who is the reaper? How can the reaper not know how growth happens? (Mark 4:26-34)
3. List some of the works of God's hands that make you want to sing for joy. (Psa 92:1-4, 12-15)

## **Pray the Lord's Prayer Together**

### **Bless one another saying:**

May God bless you this week and always. AMEN

Resources:

Text and Prayers: [Sundaysandseasons.com](http://Sundaysandseasons.com) - Questions- [Workingpreacher.org](http://Workingpreacher.org)