

REFLECTION FOR THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Today's readings invite us to live hope in our lives, despite the difficulties we encounter.

In the first reading, the Prophet Ezekiel encourages the people exiled in Babylon to trust in the Lord, because the Lord does not forget his people and is able to make a small branch grow into a new, leafy tree. A tree where birds nest and take shelter in its shade. God is the guide of our history, and even in the most difficult moments, He is always present, because His Kingdom, as the Gospel tells us, is like a seed sown in the ground: it germinates, grows and bears fruit, in the silence of the days, without the farmer knowing how. It is also like the mustard seed, exceedingly small, but with such strength that when it is sown in the ground, it germinates, grows, and gives rise to a big plant large enough for animals to take cover.

The Kingdom of Heaven does not depend on us, it depends on God. He is the builder of our history, capable of turning death itself into a path to life. He is therefore our hope. We put our trust in him, called as we are to be farmers in his fields, to sow the seed of his Word, to bear witness to his Gospel in our lives. The harvest is great, and we are few, but let us not be afraid to sow the seed of faith, even if the field seems rocky, even if the world seems deaf to the Word of God. Let us believe and trust in the knowledge that the Lord is with us on this journey we are making towards the heavenly homeland as St. Paul tells us in the second reading. As mentioned last Sunday, our goal is eternal life, here on earthly ground we are just passing through. One day we will stand before God, "*[so that] each of us will get what he has deserved for the things he did in the body, whether good or bad,*" St. Paul tells us.

Let us try to live as children of the light, trusting in God as our light and our strength, practicing the good that the Lord has taught us so that one day, when the Lord calls us, we will appear in his presence and deserve to be with him for ever and ever.