



The 3rd Sunday After Pentecost

Prelude

Meditation

Gathering— The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of seeds on earth; it grows up and becomes the greatest of shrubs, and the birds of the air make nests in its shade. Give thanks to God, whose promised reign is coming. Thanks be to God! =

****Hymn**

This Is My Father's World, 21

Prayer— God, you are the gardener of all creation. You planted this world with the seeds of your love and grow them with your faithfulness. We are your harvest; we find our meaning and sustenance in you. May our minds listen to you calling, may our hearts be attuned to your will, may our feet follow you in the world, through Jesus, the Word become flesh. =

The Lord's Prayer (unison)—Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Celebrating Our Graduates

Let us unite our hearts in prayer
and entrust to the hands of the Lord
those who will be graduated tomorrow.

May God who began this good work in
you
carry it through to completion,
enabling you to use your talents to the
fullest.

May God give you the grace to make
wise choices
and to be faithful to your commitments,
always confident in the support of those
who love you.

May God bless you with discomfort at
easy answers,
half-truths, and superficial relationships,

so that you will live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you will work for justice, equality, and peace.

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, and war, so that you will reach out your hand to comfort them and change their pain into joy.

May God bless you with the foolishness to think that you can make a difference in the world, so that you will do the things which others tell you cannot be done.

May your integrity be a gift to the world and may the Spirit of God be with you always.

- *Fr. Michael Graham SJ, Offered at Baccalaureate Mass at Xavier University 2015*

Exploring God's Word for All Ages—How would you explain God's family? *"God's family may have started out small, but each time someone shows or tells others about the love of God, it grows and grows."*

We Hear God's Word—*Mark 4:26-34 (NRSV)*

Collin Bennington

26 He also said, 'The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, ²⁷and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.'

30 He also said, 'With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³²yet 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.'

33 With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

Meditation

Mustard Seed

Hymn

I Need Thee Every Hour, 476

We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving

Invitation—God has provided us with all that we need. It is our privilege to give back to God. Let us return a portion of what God has so freely given to us. Let us now humbly bring our gifts to the Lord.=

Opportunities to Serve

June Benevolence—Our Church's Wider Mission

We Give Thanks—Bless, O God, the gifts that we bring this day, that they may be a sign of our commitment to your kingdom and a pledge of our love for you and your world. Multiply the work done by our time, treasures, and talents, that your presence and compassion may be known in all the earth. Amen.=

Hymn

Go, My Children, with My Blessing, 719

Benediction—With faith the size of a mustard seed, God can do so much through you. Go knowing that our ever-present God is by your side, Christ our Savior is journeying with you, and the Holy Spirit is leading you as your faith grows and flourishes. Amen.

Postlude

March Pontificale