

Sunday 13th June 2021

Second Sunday after Trinity

Today's Gospel reading: Mark 4: 26-34

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St Mark

Glory to you, O Lord

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

He 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.'

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

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

When Jesus wanted people to really understand important lessons, he told stories, when the lessons were hard, Jesus used everyday situations that people were familiar with, to help people understand. These stories were called parables and in today's gospel we hear a couple of these, including the parable of the Mustard Seed.

Jesus used the example of a mustard seed to teach us about the kingdom of God. This seed is very tiny, but is just the beginning of something big! When it is planted and nurtured, it grows into a huge tree, so big that birds can make their nests in it. Jesus is reminding us that things might look very small at the beginning but they can become something much bigger and end up making a huge difference!

There were only a few people who knew Jesus as their friend and believed in him to start with, but the number of people who followed Jesus and became his friends grew and grew (just like that mustard seed!) By one person sharing the good news of Jesus with another person and that person then sharing that news with someone else and so on and so on, after a while Jesus had lots of followers and the Kingdom of God had grown, just like that mustard seed that grew into a big tree!

That tiny seed made a **HUGE** difference, and even though we can sometimes feel small, Jesus is telling us that we can also make a huge difference! God's Kingdom is still growing today and we can help grow it by telling others all about him!

Jesus also wanted people to know that everything we do to help others is important. The big things are important and the little things are important. Sometimes we can do a little thing and it ends up making a **BIG** difference to someone else.

🤔 Why do you think it is important to help people even if we can only do what seems like a 'little' thing?

Is there anything 'small' that you can do this week that might make a big difference to someone else?

Can you think of someone you could tell about Jesus or someone you could pray for?

Prayer is one way that we can help others and help the world around us. It might sometimes feel like a small thing to do, or we might not think that our prayers will make much difference, but the Bible tells us that our prayers make a **HUGE** difference!

🙏 A prayer for this week:

Dear God,

Thank you that we can read Jesus's stories in the Bible and learn from them. Help us to remember that the little things we do make a difference. Help us to be like that little seed and to spread your word, by telling other people about you, so that more and more people get to know you and how amazing you are! We pray that we will see your Kingdom grow! Amen.

(Material adapted from ChristChurchLondon.org website)

Scroll down for a word search and crossword and some colouring pages!

The Mustard-Seed

Matthew 13: 31, Mark 4: 30-32, Luke 13: 18-19

Look carefully at the words below. Each of these has been hidden in the word search.
Words can be on the horizontal, diagonal, backwards, forwards, up and down.

PRODUCING	GREATEST	BRANCHES	SMALLEST	MUSTARD	SPRINGS
SHELTER	PLANTED	SHADOW	GARDEN	FIELD	BIRDS
FOWLS	LODGE	LARGE	GRAIN	GROWN	SHADE
EARTH	ROOST	LEAST	SHRUB	HERBS	SOWED
TREE	TINY	NEST	SEED	AIR	MAN

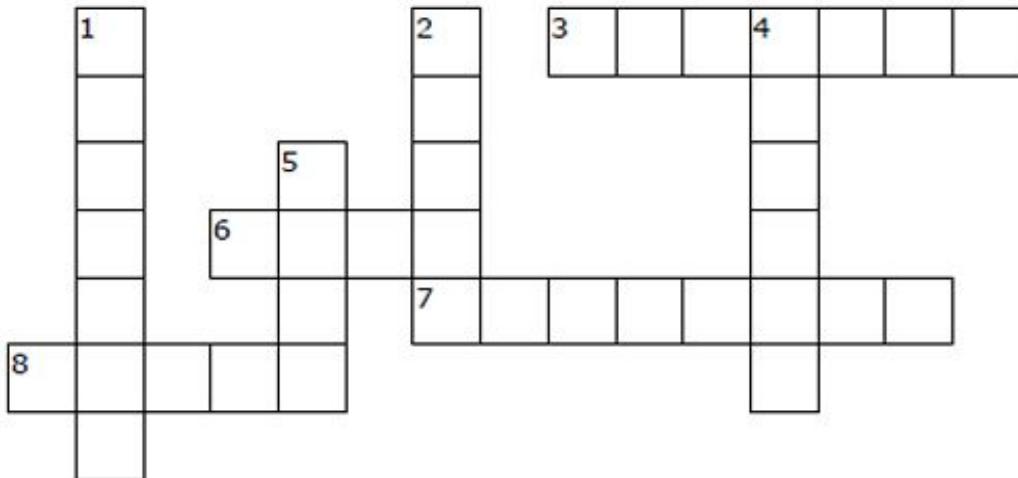
Z X X
N L Q E Q R D P A
Q P F O A O I R E W Y S N
D O G R D G S T S H J X O A
W L T E I G N G M E R T Z W J G
L X H E E G A E R N X H Q S W E W D
S V R T E I L N R B N I G C O E T D N H
Z R D R S P F E I A H R R D N S N W D S
E T R B A T J M C E E A P O A O M D
D P A L E X Z A U H R O S R R R Y
I Y A E T K L T O S D R B G L I B S T
G V N H H X S E V A T D O B S B I D I S
U R S M P S S U M O C N O R M U E N E P
O A B N T Z M O E Q P E Y R P
H A I U E M U S C J I
M Y N R D Y K S T X
H R X S G E M
S A A N A
I G L
P L J
E E N
S G W A
T R K O W P
C A V S I Z V F
L L S L L L

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

Again he said, "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade."

Mark 4:30-32 (NIV)

Puzzle is based on Mark 4:30-32



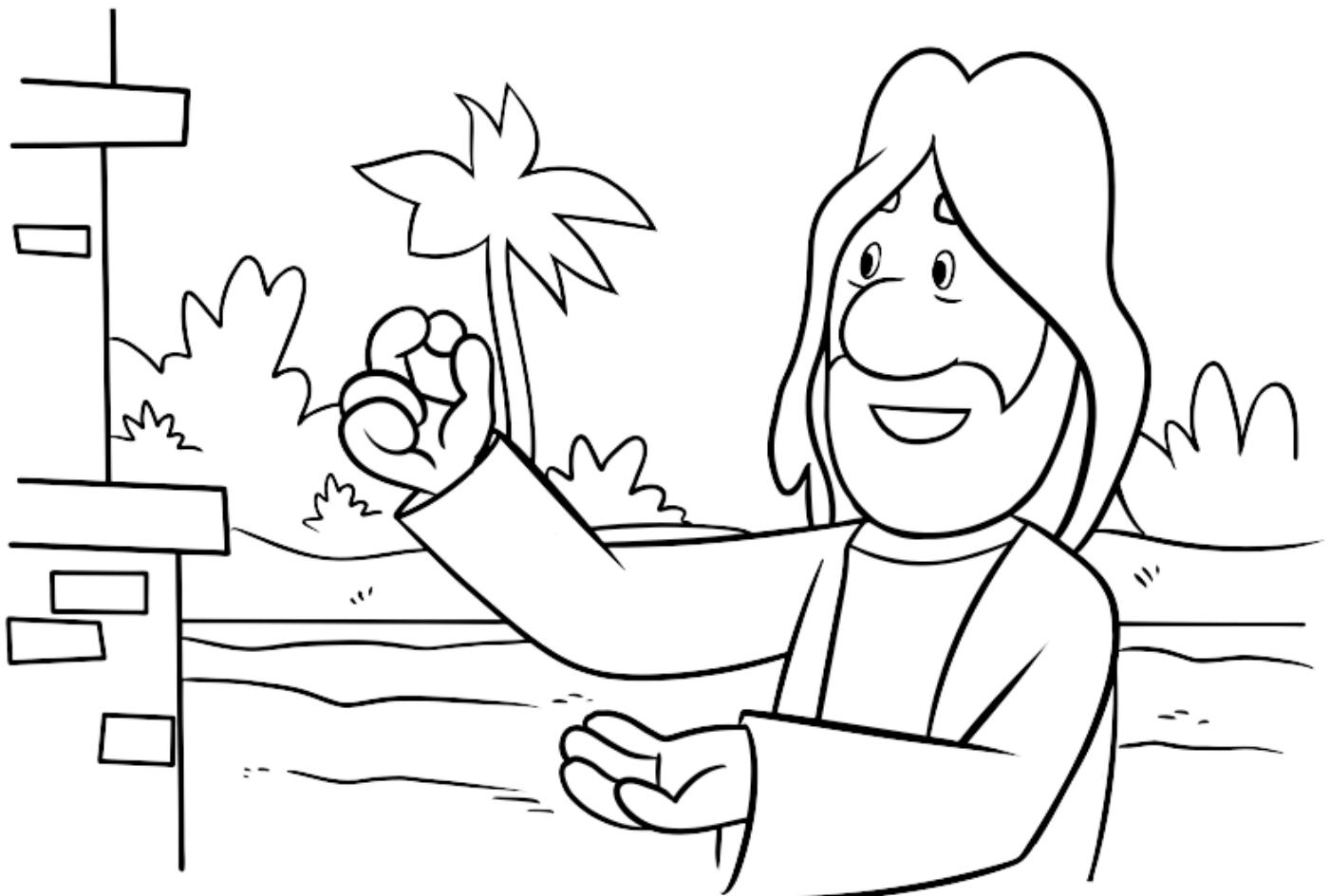
ACROSS

- 3. Bigger than any of the others
- 6. A small grain of a plant placed in the ground for growing another plant
- 7. Not as big as any of the others
- 8. A living thing that grows in the ground, usually with leaves or flowers

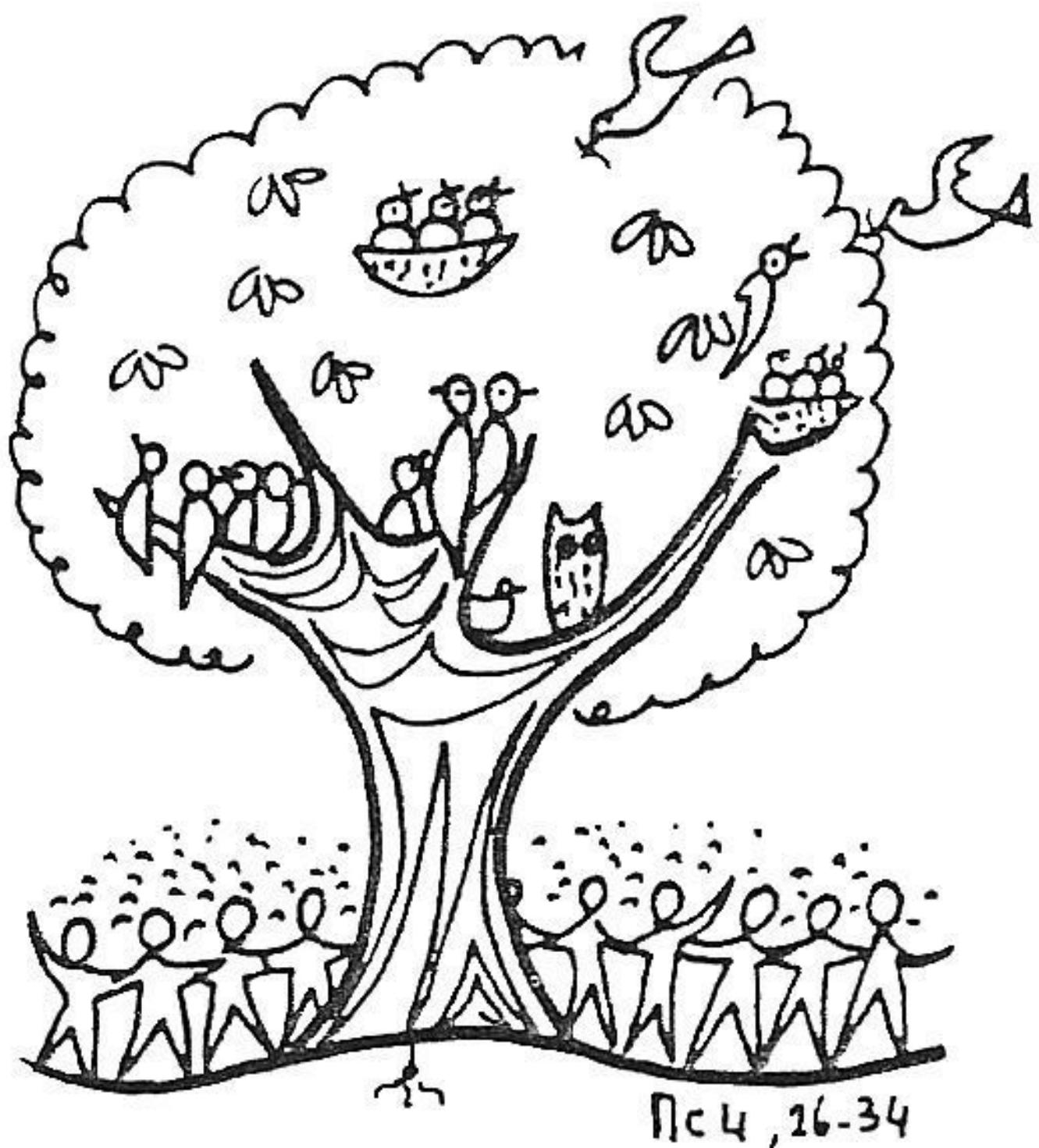
DOWN

- 1. A story told by Jesus to help explain his teachings
- 2. An animal that has wings and is covered with feathers
- 4. An area where plants are grown
- 5. The place where birds lay eggs or give birth to their young

SEED SMALLEST	PARABLE NEST	BIRDS GARDEN	LARGEST PLANT
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Jesus told parables to teach people about the Kingdom of God.
In one famous parable, he said that the Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed -
it will start small and then grow! (Mark 4:30-32)



ПСЧ, 16-34