

# Parish Meeting Prayers

For use in June, 2018

## Introduction

Leader If the seed spouting from the ground is a marvel, how much more amazing are God's ways of helping us grow in his love?

## Opening Prayer

All God of wisdom, teach us your ways. Guide us in choosing the good and avoiding all that draws us to evil. We rejoice in your love and pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

## Word of God Mark 4:26-34

Reader A reading from the Gospel of Mark *(The reading is on the reverse side.  
(Pause for silent reflection after the reading.)*

*Optional* Discuss these questions in two's or three's.

1. Share an experience of plant growth that relates to your personal growth.
2. When have you been able to enjoy the seeds of goodness you helped plant in your children or other acquaintances?

## Response Diocesan Stewardship Prayer

Side 1 Gracious and loving God, you call us to be disciples of your Son Jesus and good stewards of all your many gifts.

Side 2 Open our minds and hearts to a greater awareness and deeper appreciation of your countless blessings.

Side 1 Transform us through the power of your Spirit to nurture a Stewardship way of life that is marked by faith-filled prayer, service to our neighbor and generous sharing.

Side 2 Teach us to be faithful stewards of your gifts.  
With Mary's help, may we return ten-fold the gifts entrusted to us.

All We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Petitions** Individuals add intentions to remember here.

## Closing Prayer Psalm 92:2-3,5

All It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praise to your name, Most High,  
to proclaim your kindness at dawn and your faithfulness throughout the night.  
For you make me glad, O Lord, by your deeds.  
At the work of your hands, I rejoice!

## **A Reading from the Gospel of Mark**

Jesus said to the crowds:

“This is how it is with the kingdom of God;  
it is as if a man were to scatter seed on the land  
and would sleep and rise night and day  
and through it all the seed would sprout and grow,  
he knows not how.

Of its own accord the land yields fruit,  
first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear.  
And when the grain is ripe, he wields the sickle at once,  
for the harvest has come.”

He said,

“To what shall we compare the kingdom of God,  
of what parable can we use for it?

It is like a mustard seed that, when it is sown in the ground,  
is the smallest of all the seeds on the earth.

But once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants  
and puts forth large branches,  
so that the birds of the sky can dwell in its shade.”

With many such parables  
he spoke the word to them as they were able to understand it.

Without parables he did not speak to them,  
but to his own disciples he explained everything in private.