

# PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

## SUNDAY LITURGY



11<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

13 June 2021 - Year B

***“The mustard seed, the smallest of all the seeds, grows into the biggest shrub of all.”***

### Something to Think About

Can you think of some little things that grow into very big things?

### The Story

In today's story, Jesus is explaining what the kingdom of God is like. Jesus says the kingdom of God is like a small, small seed growing into a very large tree. From little things, big things grow. A small thing like a smile can bring joy and friendship to someone who is sad. When these small, kind actions spread throughout the world, God's kingdom grows!

### The Scriptures

A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark

4:26-34

Jesus said: "What is God's kingdom like?  
What story can I use to explain it?  
It is like what happens when a mustard seed is planted in the ground.  
It is the smallest seed in all the world.  
But once it is planted,  
it grows larger than any garden plant.  
It even puts out branches that are big enough for birds to nest in its shade."

Jesus used many other stories when he spoke to the people,  
and he taught them as much as they could understand.  
He did not tell them anything without using stories.  
But when he was alone with his disciples,  
he explained everything to them.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### Video

Click to watch the video: [The Parable of the Mustard Seed](#)



## Group Discussion

In the story today, we heard about the way a tree grows from a tiny seed. People start as small babies and grow into adults. Invite children to name some ways they have grown as well as some ways in which they would like to 'grow'.

## Praying For Others

*Leader:* Let us pray now for the leaders of our Church, our world, for those in our community and for our own needs.

*Reader:* We pray that our bishops and priests will be compassionate and caring. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader:* We pray for all who suffer or who are dying. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader:* We pray for those who have no one to care for them. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader:* We pray for a generous heart to reach out to all who need our help. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Invite the children to pray for their own special intentions.*

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* Loving God, listen to the prayers we make in the name of Jesus.

**All: Amen.**

## Prayer



Dear God,  
Give us loving hearts so that our  
small acts of kindness can make  
a big difference in the world.  
Amen.

## Group Activity

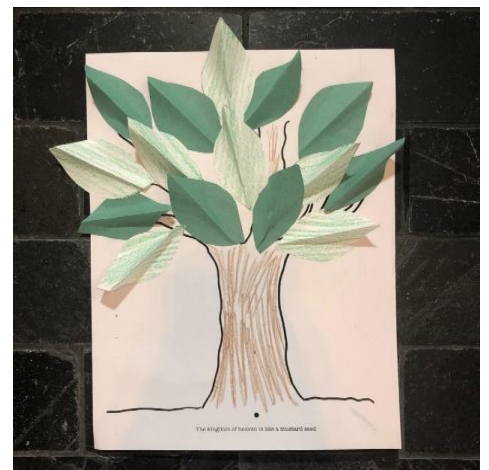
### PARABLE OF THE MUSTARD SEED

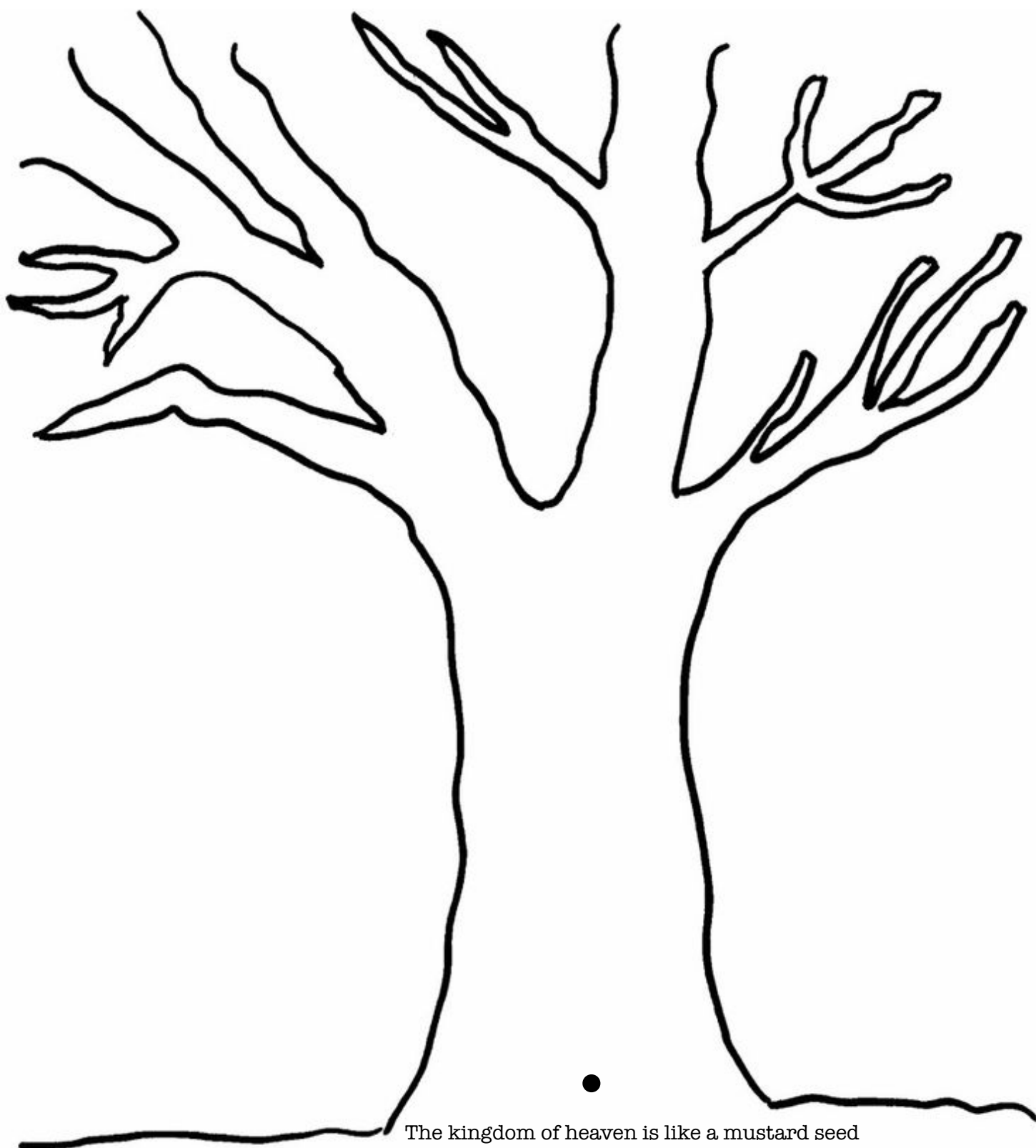
*You will need: tree template for each child, leaves cut from green paper, leaves cut from white paper, green crayons, glue.*

Invite children to colour the printable and the leaves on white paper.

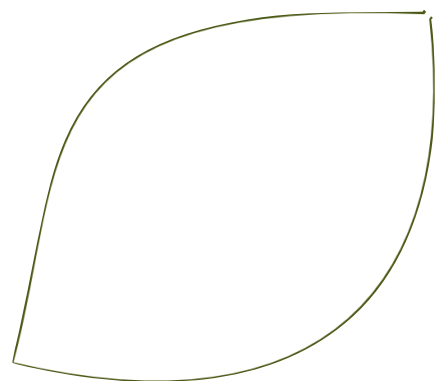
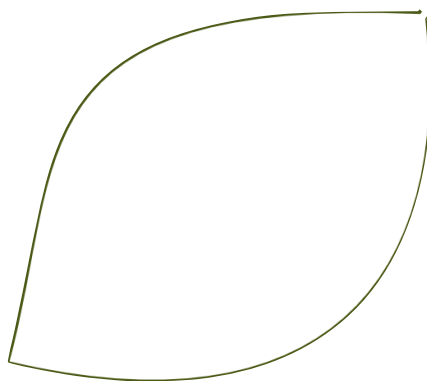
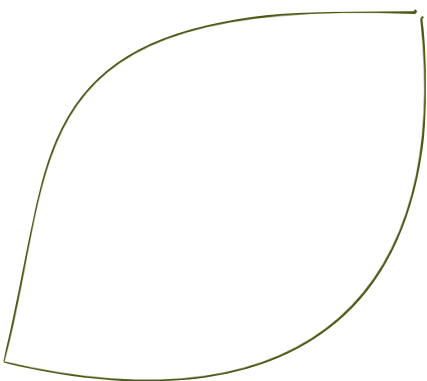
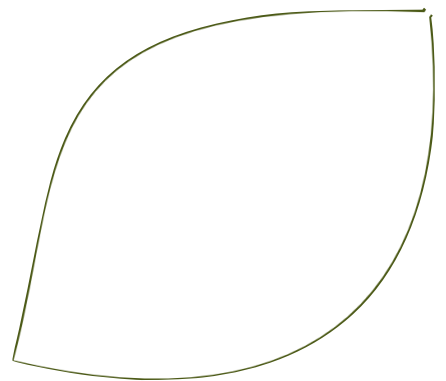
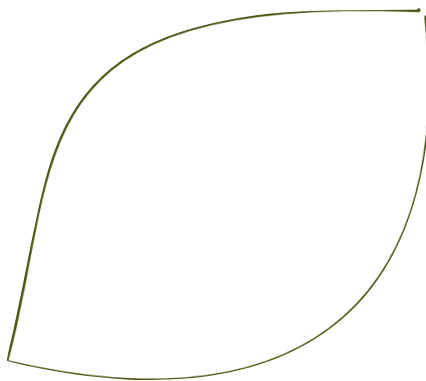
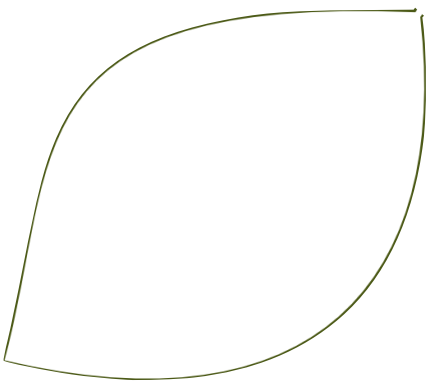
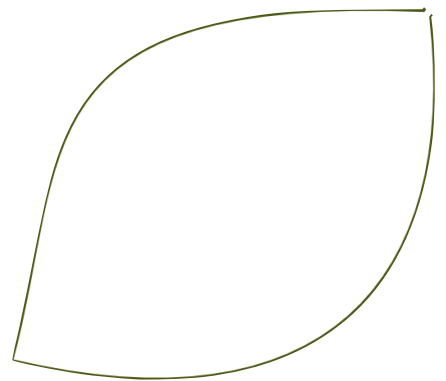
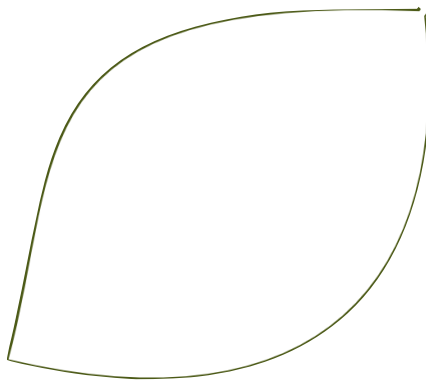
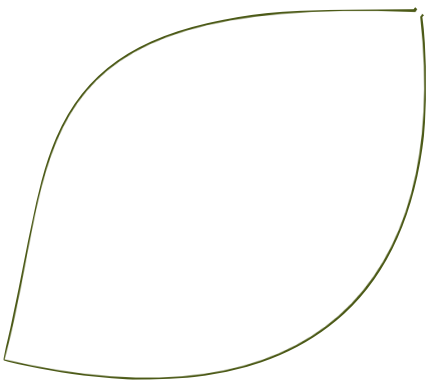
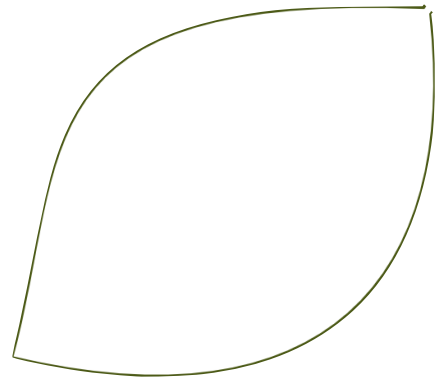
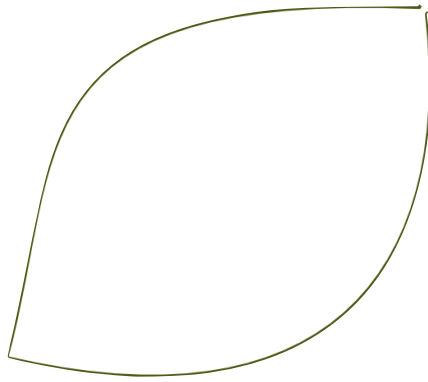
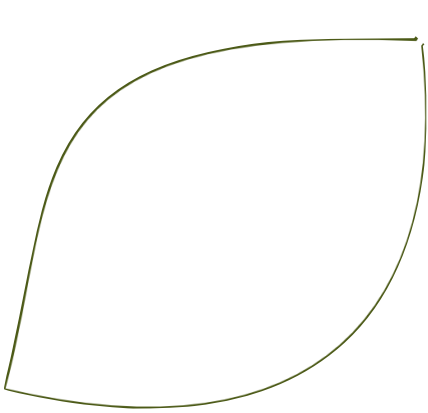
Fold the leaves in half, vertically. Glue around the edges of the leaf and glue onto the tree for a 3D effect.

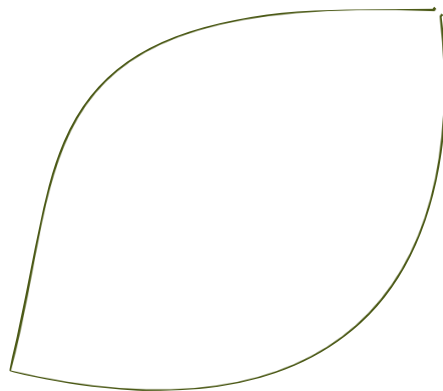
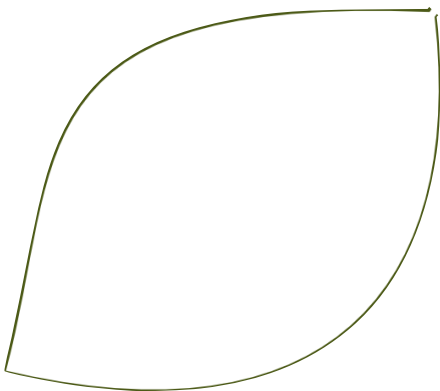
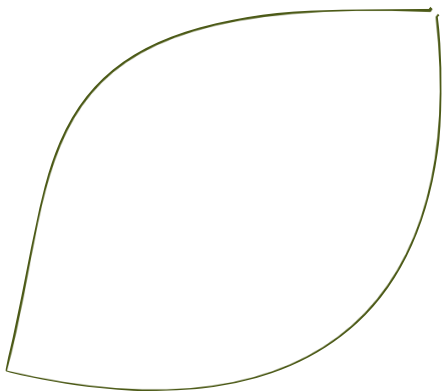
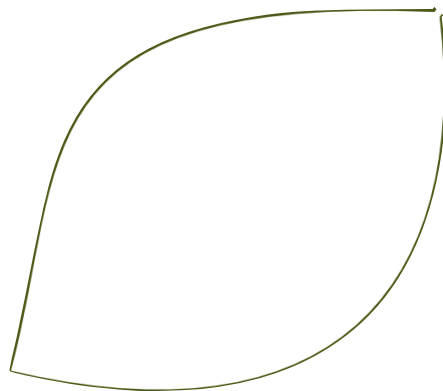
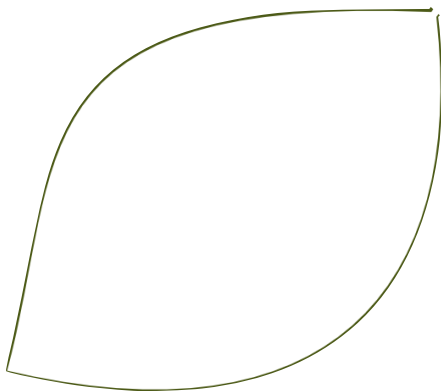
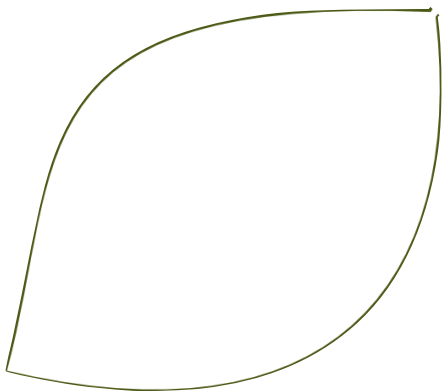
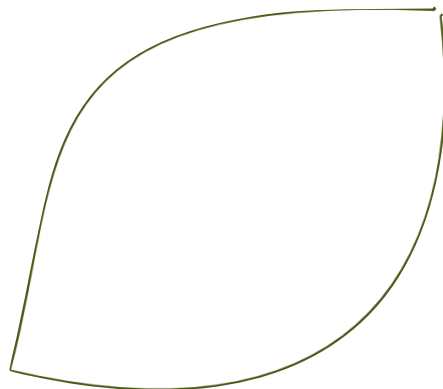
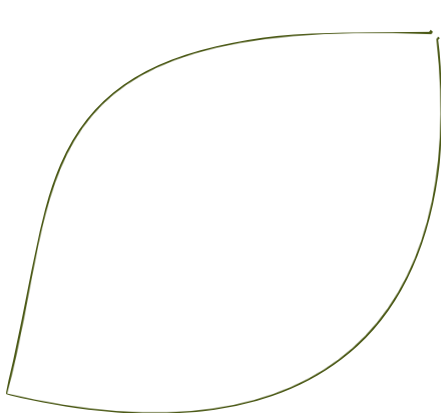
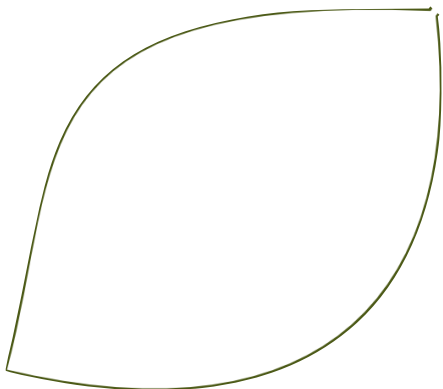
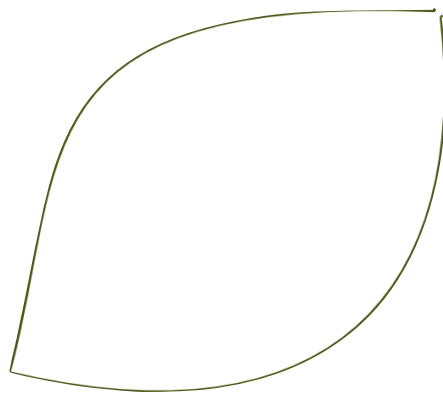
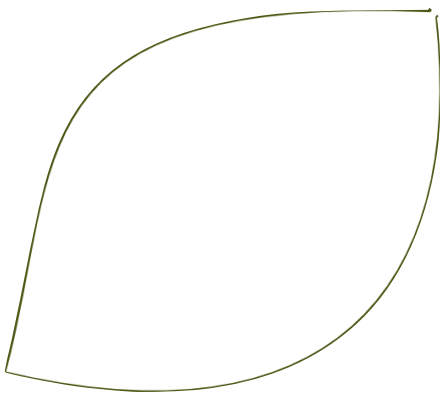
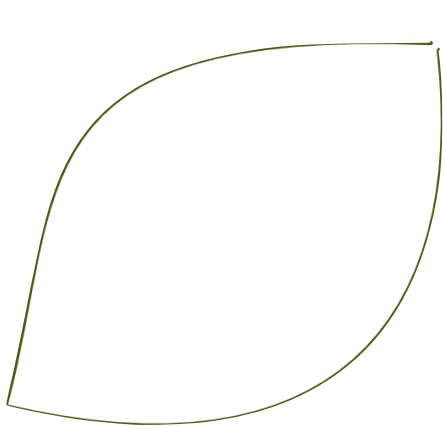
You may even bring in some mustard seeds, and each child could glue one seed to the tiny dot on the printable.





The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed







# ROOM FOR EVERYONE

DRAW LOTS OF BIRDS SINGING AND BUILDING  
THEIR NESTS IN THE BRANCHES OF THE BIG TREE

## ALL ARE WELCOME

WRITE THE STORY OF A TIME YOU LET SOMEONE  
JOIN IN YOUR PLAYGROUND GAMES

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GOD'S KINGDOM  
IS LIKE THIS...

