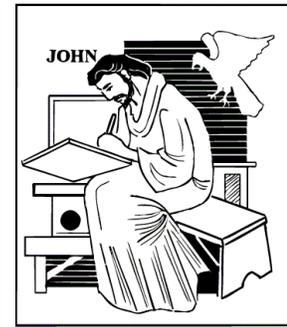
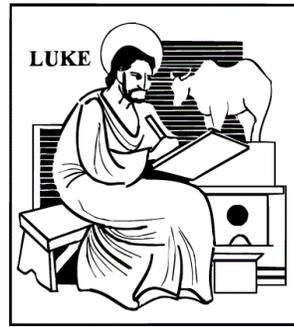
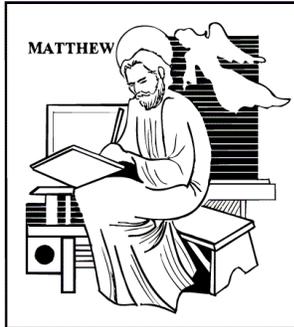


Breaking Open the Word



June 14, 2015 - 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time Lectionary: 92 Gospel [Mk 4:26-34](#)

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, or 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.

Spiritual Reflection: Listen! Listen to stories! For spirituality itself is conveyed by stories, which uses words in ways that go beyond words to speak the language of the heart. Especially in a spirituality of imperfection, a spirituality of not having all the answers, stories convey the mystery and the miracle—the adventure—of being alive. - By Ernest Kurtz & Katherine Ketcham

Spiritual Questions

1. How do stories help us speak about spiritual things?
2. Why do you think Jesus used parable so much?
3. All parables are supposed to have a surprise twist (for example a shepherd would never leave 99 sheep to go look for 1). What are the surprise twists in the parables in today's Gospel?
4. How do Jesus' stories speak to your heart?
5. Do you allow time in private for Jesus to explain things to you?