

27 November 2016 - First Sunday of Advent

Readings: Isaiah 2:1–5; Ps. 122; Rom. 13:11–14; Matthew 24:36–44.

Theme: *The highest mountain* – Isaiah 2:2, “In the last days the mountain of the LORD’s temple will be established as **the highest** of the mountains; it will **be exalted** above the hills.”



I. STARTS SMALL.

Gaising or Gaizinkalns, 312 m (1023 ft).

Judges 6:15, “Pardon me, my lord,” Gideon replied, “but how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the **least** in my family.”

Mark 4:31, “It is like a mustard seed, which is the **smallest** of all seeds on earth.”

Micah 5:2, “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, **though you are small** among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel...” Cf. *O Little Town of Bethlehem*.



II. KEEPS ON GROWING.

Mount Kosciuszko, 2,228 m (7,310 ft).

Mark 4:26-27, “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts **and grows**, though he does not know how.”

Ephesians 4:16, “From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, **grows and builds itself up in love**, as each part does its work.”

Colossians 2:19, “the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, **grows** as God causes it to grow.”

Are mountains growing taller? “Some are. Mount Everest, for example, is the highest mountain in the world. And it is still growing

about 1 inch (2.5 cm) every year.” “According to *About.com*, the Earth creates mountains through plate tectonics, where its **crust is broken** into plates constantly in motion, causing **stress** and uplifting in order to **grow mountains.**” “**Peaks in the Himalayas grow** about a cm a year due to **collisions** in the tectonic plates.”

How do we grow? The same. Cf. Friction.

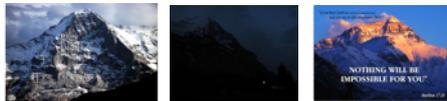


III. BECOMES THE HIGHEST.

Mount Everest, 8,848 m (29,029 ft). Cf. K2 is the second-highest mountain on Earth, between Pakistan and China. 8,611 m (28,251 ft).

Isaiah 2:2, “In the last days the mountain of the LORD’s temple will be established as **the highest of the mountains**; it will be exalted above the hills.”

Matthew 13:32, “Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is **the largest** of garden plants and becomes a tree.”



CONCLUSION: Matthew 5:13-15, “You are the light of the world. **A city set on a hill** cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house.” **Matthew 17:20**, “Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, **you can say to this mountain**, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”

Reflection:

1. Thank God for the light/mustard seed of faith He has given you.
2. What mountains stand before you?
3. What do you need to say or do to make them MOVE?