

New! Weekly Gospel  
Reflection Videos

Liturgy of the Word with Children

# Children Celebrate!



**SUMMER 2022 (YEAR C)**

**MAY 29, 2022** Ascension/Seventh Sunday of Easter  
*through*

**AUGUST 21, 2022** Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

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Liturgy of the Word with Children

## Leader's Guide

**Summer 2022**  
Year C

**May 29, 2022**

*Ascension/Seventh Sunday of Easter*

through

**August 21, 2022**

*Twenty-first Sunday of Easter*

# Additional Resources at Pflaum.com

## Sunday Readings

For your convenience, each Sunday's Lectionary readings for the Liturgy of the Word with Children can be downloaded from pflaum.com. It's as easy as 1-2-3!

1. Go to [pflaum.com/readings](https://pflaum.com/readings) for a list of Sunday readings (updated at the end of each month).
2. Click on the date you want. That Sunday's readings will open in a PDF.
3. Print or download the file.

For more about the Sunday Readings, see the *Introduction to this Leader's Guide*.

## New! Available to subscribers of *Children Celebrate!*

Visit <https://bit.ly/3sjSNfe> for weekly Gospel reflection videos. These videos can be used within your Children's Liturgy of the Word program or shared with parents and families to view at home.

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## *Children Celebrate!* Director's Manual

For an easy-to-follow Director's Manual, go to [pflaum.com/liturgy-of-the-word](https://pflaum.com/liturgy-of-the-word) and click on "Bonus Resources" and then "Program Directors." There you will find a manual that outlines practical steps for establishing a program, recruiting and training volunteers, and creating the proper environment and liturgical flow.

In addition, you will learn how to most effectively incorporate *Children Celebrate!* materials into your program. Additional resources are also suggested.

## Celebrate the Year of the Family

Pope Francis describes Saint Joseph as a father who was beloved, tender, loving, obedient, accepting, creatively courageous, working, and in the shadows. We honor him as patron of the universal Church during this Year of the Family (3/19/21–6/26/22). To access free resources to celebrate this special year, scan the QR code or visit [Pflaum.com](https://Pflaum.com).



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# This Issue's Themes

Date	Sunday	Theme
May 29, 2022	The Ascension of the Lord	Jesus Returns to Heaven
May 29, 2022	Seventh Sunday of Easter	Jesus Prays for His Followers
June 5, 2022	Pentecost Sunday	Jesus Sends the Apostles
June 12, 2022	The Most Holy Trinity	The Holy Spirit Teaches Us
June 19, 2022	The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ	Jesus Feeds the Crowd
June 26, 2022	Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Jesus Teaches About God's Kingdom
July 3, 2022	Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	The Disciples Go Forth in Jesus' Name
July 10, 2022	Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	The Parable of the Good Samaritan
July 17, 2022	Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Jesus Visits Martha and Mary
July 24, 2022	Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Jesus Teaches About Prayer
July 31, 2022	Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	The Parable of the Rich Man
August 7, 2022	Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Jesus Says, "Be Ready"
August 14, 2022	Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Jesus Teaches About Faith
August 21, 2022	Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time	Jesus Teaches About God's Kingdom

# Using Children Celebrate!

*Children Celebrate!* is a complete step-by-step resource for celebrating the Liturgy of the Word with Children. The two components of *Children Celebrate!* are this Leader's Guide and the Children's Leaflets, a book of tear-out, take-home sheets.

**Leader's Guide** (each week has two parts)

**I. Preparation** provides the leader with information about the week's Scripture readings and how they relate to children today. Its elements are the following:

- **Today's Readings** cites the exact Scripture readings you will be using that day. (Remember, these readings do not always match the readings chosen for the adults. See more about the readings on page 6.) A theme sets the tone of that day's liturgy.
- **Prepare with Prayer** helps center you on the task at hand, which is not only helping children hear and understand God's Word but also hearing and understanding God's Word *through* the children.
- **Scripture Background** helps you understand the readings and prepare to break open the Word.
- **Prepare the Meeting Space** gives you suggestions for enhancing the environment for that day's celebration. Review this section a few days before the liturgy.
- **Suggested Music** provides suggestions for appropriate songs during the liturgy. Information on where to find each piece of suggested music is on page 64.
- **Children's Connections** explains each week's theme and Scripture message as it applies to children today.
- **More About...** provides Church teaching about a topic that is related to this week's liturgy.
- **Using the Children's Leaflet** provides brief background information about the take-home sheet.
- **Activity** provides a reproduction of the take-home sheet. Solutions to puzzles are shown as needed.

**II. The Liturgy of the Word** is a ready-made liturgy specifically written for that week's readings and theme. Its elements are the following:

- **Gathering** helps the children settle into their places. Playing appropriate background music or singing a song provides a transition into an attitude of prayer.
- **Collect** sets the tone for the worship experience.

- **Focus Statements** for each of the readings help you give the children a key idea to listen for and to help them better understand the theme of the readings.
- **Responsorial Psalm and Gospel Acclamation** provide liturgically appropriate responses for the children to use.
- **Homily** gives you starter ideas for interesting, creative, and relevant reflections on the Gospel.
- **Profession of Faith** is a simple and interactive declaration of what we believe as Catholics.
- **Prayer of the Faithful** are the prayers for the needs of the world, the Church, and the community. These are often a common first step for children into spontaneous prayer and can be powerful moments for children.
- **Return to Assembly** provides the leader with a cue to prepare the children to rejoin the main assembly and to remind them to take home a Children's Leaflet.

**Children's Leaflets** (each leaflet is two-sided)

**Front Side**

- **Today's Readings** gives the Scripture citations for that Sunday's liturgy.
- **We Pray** is a short prayer for children based on the week's theme.
- **The Word of God This Week** is a summary of the day's Gospel story.

**Back Side**

- **Activity** provides an entertaining way to reinforce the Gospel message.
- **Faith Focus** highlights how the Gospel message can pertain to the family.
- **Family Activity** provides practical suggestions to families on how to put the Gospel into action at home.

**Weekly Gospel Reflection Videos**

- **How to access the videos:** Visit <https://bit.ly/3sjSNfe> to view the videos for this quarter (loaded monthly).
- **What's included?** Each weekly video includes a Gospel Reflection, Saint Spotlight, Closing Prayer, and Reflection Question.
- **Promote:** Share these videos with those assisting with Children's Liturgy of the Word for use during your program, as well as with parents and families.

# Introduction

## What is Liturgy of the Word with Children?

Liturgy of the Word with Children is a worship experience geared especially for children. It mirrors the worship experience of the larger community, with a style that is engaging and interactive. Jesus himself recognized that children have a pure spirituality, and he made them the primary spiritual model for all believers.

Liturgy of the Word with Children is not formal religious education, nor is it intended to substitute for attendance at religious education sessions. Rather, it should be considered a partner to religious education programs. Both are important for a child's spiritual development, just as continuing faith formation and growth in spirituality are important to adults.

The Word of God has a message that is as relevant and fitting for children as it is for adults. The children, however, often fail to hear the message simply because the adult vocabulary is beyond their comprehension. Liturgy of the Word with Children offers an experience for the children to hear Scripture in words they understand and to share their own understanding of God's Word.

Celebrating the Liturgy of the Word in this way is an empowering experience, giving children a foundation for understanding and appreciating Scripture. Over several years, the children not only become comfortable with hearing and discussing God's Word but also gain an understanding of and appreciation for their liturgical heritage as Catholics.

## When and how do the children leave the assembly?

The celebration of the Liturgy of the Word with Children follows the same structure as the Liturgy of the Word for the entire assembly. In fact, it begins with the Introductory Rites, which are celebrated in the large assembly, where the children are seated with their families.

After the Introductory Rites, the presider invites any children wishing to participate to join the leader and proceed to the worship space set aside for them. They return after the Prayer of the Faithful to celebrate the Liturgy of the Eucharist with the entire community.

## What about the readings?

**The readings in the children's lectionary sometimes differ from those used in the adult lectionary.**

When planning liturgies to be used with children, the Church allows some flexibility in the number and choice of readings on Sundays and feast days.

According to the *Directory for Masses with Children*, "If three or even two readings appointed on Sundays or weekdays can be understood by children only with difficulty, it is permissible to read two or only one of them, but the reading of the Gospel should never be omitted" (Chapter III, No. 42). In addition, because of the difficulty some children may have in understanding certain verses, it is sometimes possible to omit one or another verse from the reading. (For a complete reading of the directives regarding selection of readings, see the *Directory for Masses with Children*, Chapter III, Nos. 41-47.)

In *Children Celebrate!* we follow the readings from the *Lectionary for Masses with Children*, which is approved for use in all dioceses of the United States by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. We determine themes and make suggestions for each Sunday's liturgy based on these readings. For this reason, it is important that you check each week's citations as listed in this Leader's Guide before finalizing your plans for that Sunday's celebration.

## Preview the Readings

If you do not have access to a children's lectionary while you prepare your liturgy, you have three other options for previewing the readings for each Sunday.

1. Go to our website ([pflaum.com/readings](http://pflaum.com/readings)), click on the date you need, and print or download the readings.
2. The *Lectionary for Masses with Children* uses the following: Readings from the Old Testament, Book of Psalms, and a select number of the refrains for the responsorial psalms are taken from the *Contemporary English Version* © 1991 by the American Bible Society. Readings from the New Testament are taken from the *Contemporary English Version, Bible for Today's Family: New Testament* © 1991 by the American Bible Society. The CEV can be purchased at stores and at [americanbible.org](http://americanbible.org).
3. Go to [americanbible.org](http://americanbible.org). Scroll over BIBLE RESOURCES. Scroll down to and click on BIBLE SEARCH. Under the search box, click on Search Options. Select CEV Contemporary English Version (US Version). Enter the book, chapter, and verses that you need, such as Luke 15:11-32.

## Where do I begin?

Your first step to prepare a Sunday session should be to pray for guidance. "Prepare with Prayer," opens each week's background material. It will help you begin to focus your mind and open your heart to God's message. Remain in prayer as long as you like.

Read the Scripture and background material in their entirety. Although the story may be familiar, you may see it with new eyes when challenged to lead a reflection on it. The background material will give you an idea of the social and historical context from which the Scripture was written.

Gather and write down your thoughts for the reflection. Look at them and meditate on them for a while. Certain themes or ideas will come through. Create an outline for your reflection based on these ideas.

Be sure to read through the Prepare the Meeting Space and The Liturgy of the Word sections well in advance so that you are not taken by surprise by any preparations you should have made or items you will need on hand. Allow plenty of time to set up and prepare before the session.

## What else should I know?

### Liturgical Colors

This edition of *Children Celebrate!* covers the Ascension of the Lord through the Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time. The liturgical colors are white/gold, red, and green. You can incorporate the liturgical color in the cloth you use on the table where you place the lectionary or in other elements you use in your worship area.

### Movement

Introduce movement wherever you feel it could be appropriate in the liturgy. Young muscles cry out to be used often, and this physical need causes the restlessness that some adults find irritating. Even the simple act of lifting their arms in prayer or carrying some small object to the front of the room can give children a refreshing but orderly break from being too long in one position.

### Trust Yourself

Finally, remember that *Children Celebrate!* is a complete resource that you can trust to be liturgically sound while also being creative.

Nevertheless, you are the leader and you must be comfortable with what you want to do each week. Feel free to use (and trust) your own ideas as well.

There is no limit to what God can work through each of us. Your time with these children will have God's blessing and will be immeasurably fruitful. Enjoy!

May 29, 2022

The Ascension of the Lord

# Children Celebrate!

## Liturgy of the Word with Children

### Preparation

#### Children's Leaflet

Have on hand copies of the Children's Leaflet for this Sunday. Distribute copies either at the start of the session or before the children return to the assembly.



### Prepare with Prayer

“Be still and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, exalted on the earth.” The LORD of hosts is with us; our stronghold is the God of Jacob. (Psalm 46:11-12)

### Scripture Background

From the very beginning, the Church has had to struggle with the human weakness of its own leaders and members. After Jesus' work on earth had been completed and he was ready to return to Heaven, the Apostles had one last question to ask of him: “Lord, are you now going to give Israel its own king again?” (Acts 1:6).

It seems that even among first-hand witnesses of the Resurrection, political dreams die hard! Jesus' answer to their question forms the content of today's First Reading. Jesus says that this information is not theirs to know—in fact, it's not even important to know. Then he outlines what is important: awaiting the arrival of the Holy Spirit and carrying the truth of the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

In the Second Reading, Paul names a few of the spiritual traits that people will possess if they have been animated by the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, hope, power—in fact, the same wonderful power that raised Jesus from the dead. Then Paul stresses the power that Christ Jesus regained after reclaiming his position at God's right hand. (In the Scripture, the

### Today's Readings

Acts 1:8–11  
Psalm 47:1–2, 5–6, 7–8  
Ephesians 1:17–21  
Luke 24:50–53

Jesus Returns to Heaven

### Prepare the Meeting Space

At home, browse through newspapers and magazines to find pictures of people showing kindness to others and doing good in the world. These will be used during the homily.

In the meeting room, put some chairs in a circle, enough for each child to have a seat. (Depending on the number of children in your group, you may need more than one circle.) Have ready a music player and a recording, perhaps of a hymn stressing Christian unity. On the bottom of one chair, tape a paper with the name of Jesus on it—and remember which chair that one is! In the worship area, on a table draped with a white cloth, place:

- ▶ a Lectionary
- ▶ a battery-operated candle

### Suggested Music

See page 64 for more information.

**Gathering:** “I Am the Way” (Seeds CD-2, Track #19) or “He Lives” (Promise & Good News CD-2, Track #4)

**Gospel Acclamation:** “Alleluia” (Promise & Good News CD-2, Track #24)

expression “on the right hand” always designates a place of honor and power.)

The Gospel account of the Ascension focuses on the sheer joy the Apostles feel after Jesus’ Ascension. Is it because they know on some level that Jesus has reconciled Heaven and earth, so that Heaven is no longer so very far from earth? Is it because they sense that Jesus is not really leaving them, but will always be with them in thrilling new ways?

Deep interior joy, too, is among the gifts of the Spirit—and it always radiates outward.

## Children’s Connections

The gathering activity no doubt will produce a little fun and laughter. But the importance of its underlying message will become clear as the liturgy continues.

A contemporary social commentator who attended a Catholic school in his youth says that, after all these years, one memory from his school days still stands out above all others. Every time a police, fire, or ambulance siren sounded on the streets of the city, his classroom teacher paused to lead the students in prayer for whomever was in danger. The indelible lesson that he learned from this simple routine? Whatever happens to anyone out on the streets in some way happens to all of us, for we are our neighbors’ keepers.

Today’s homily, with its use of contemporary scenes from newspapers and magazines, is aimed at helping children see a connection between the positive messages that they hear in church every Sunday with the positive actions that good Christians perform in the world every day. Because we believe in Jesus, we love our neighbor, and our connection with Jesus inspires us to make positive connections with everyone we meet.

When preparing the set of photos, choose scenes from news and advertising sections alike. Don’t overlook pictures of good deeds as simple as flashing a smile or attentively doing one’s ordinary, everyday work. Find pictures of people, young and old, who can be considered good models for the children to see and to imitate. As much as possible, include pictures of people representing various races, nationalities, social classes, physical sizes, etc.

## More About ...

### The Catechism on the Ascension

- “Christ’s body was glorified at the moment of his Resurrection, as proved by the new and supernatural properties it subsequently and permanently enjoys. But during the forty days when he eats and drinks familiarly with his disciples and teaches them about the kingdom, his glory remains veiled under the appearance of ordinary humanity. Jesus’ final apparition ends with the irreversible entry of his humanity into divine glory, symbolized by the cloud and by Heaven, where he is seated from that time forward at God’s right hand.” (#659)
- “The lifting up of Jesus on the cross signifies and announces his lifting up by his Ascension into Heaven, and indeed begins it.” (#662)
- “Jesus Christ, having entered the sanctuary of Heaven once and for all, intercedes constantly for us as the mediator who assures us of the permanent outpouring of the Holy Spirit.” (#667)

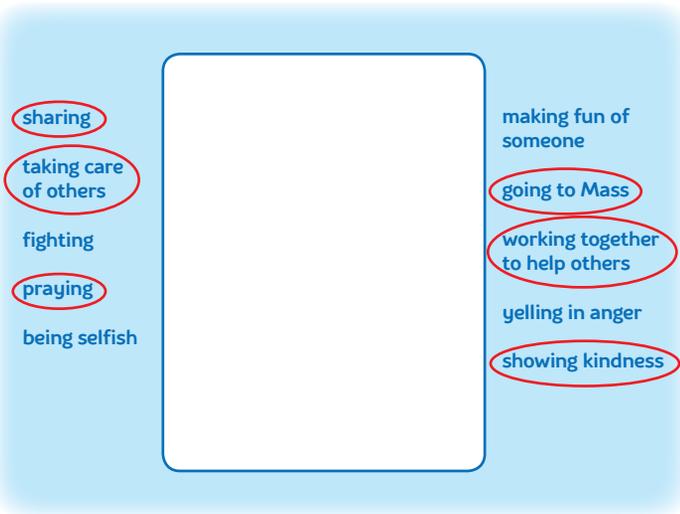
### The Children’s Leaflet

The leaflet for this week helps the children learn about Jesus’ Ascension, through a prayer, a summary of the Gospel, and a creative activity.

If you distribute the leaflet now and time permits, you may wish to read with the children the summary of the Gospel in “The Word of God This Week” after you have read the Gospel. Point out the artwork and ask the children what is happening in the picture.

## Leaflet Activity

Families are reminded that they should be united with Christ and with each other. The children's activity reminds them of actions they can take to be one in the Spirit. For your convenience, the solution is provided here.



## The Liturgy of the Word

### Gathering

Invite the children to be seated on the chairs. Add or subtract chairs from the circle as needed. Tell the children that today's liturgy will begin with an activity similar to musical chairs. When you start the music, they must walk around in a circle until the music stops. In the meantime you will have taken one chair out of the circle. Any person who does not sit down soon enough to get a chair must sit on someone's lap! Keep playing the game until only one chair is left, and all the children are sitting on it! That chair should be the one with the paper taped on bottom.

After the children have had their giggles, invite them all to stand up and form a circle around the lone chair left standing. Show them Jesus' name taped on the bottom, and explain: when Jesus walked the earth, he attracted people to himself with all the good things he said and did—the same way that this chair “attracted” all of you who played this game. Now here's the theme of today's liturgy: you've got the power! If you stay connected to Jesus, you've got the same power for good that Jesus had!

### Collect

**Leader:** Please remain in the circle and hold hands for the opening prayer. For this litany, repeat the words “Amen, alleluia!” each time I say them. Lord Jesus, thank you for drawing us to yourself. Amen, alleluia!

**Children:** Amen.

**Leader:** There is great joy in being one with you. Amen, alleluia!

**Children:** Amen, alleluia!

**Leader:** When we stay connected to you, we can do the same good you did. Amen, alleluia!

**Children:** Amen, alleluia!

*Light the candle and begin the First Reading.*

### First Reading

**Leader:** In today's First Reading, we are going to hear what Jesus told his Apostles the very last time he saw them before returning to Heaven after he rose from the dead.

*Read Acts 1:8-11. Then say, “The word of the Lord.”*

**Children:** Thanks be to God.

### Responsorial Psalm

The psalm may be sung or spoken. Before beginning the psalm, sing or announce this response.

**Leader:** Alleluia.

**Children:** Alleluia.

**Leader:** *Read Psalm 47:1-2, 5-6, 7-8.*

### Second Reading

**Leader:** In our Second Reading, Saint Paul tells us about all the powers and blessings we have as followers of Jesus.

*Read Ephesians 1:17-21. Then say, “The word of the Lord.”*

**Children:** Thanks be to God.

### Gospel Acclamation

Invite the children to stand. Sing the suggested Acclamation or another familiar one. If you choose not to sing the Acclamation, proceed to the proclamation of the Gospel.

## Proclaim the Gospel

**Leader:** Today's Gospel is a little like the First Reading. It describes the Risen Lord's last moments with his Apostles before he ascended into Heaven.

The Lord be with you.

**Children:** And with your spirit.

**Leader:** A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

**Children:** † Glory to you, O Lord.

**Leader:** *Read Luke 24:50–53. Then say, "The Gospel of the Lord."*

**Children:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

*Ask the children to be seated.*



## Homily

Remind the children that wherever Jesus is, there is love and power. Even though at the time of his Ascension he went bodily into Heaven, Jesus promised to remain present on earth to the end of time; he promised to be with people wherever they spend time together praising God and doing good in God's name.

Then hold up a series of photographs you have cut from newspapers and magazines, all of which show people being kind or doing good. Ask the children to help you describe the kindly act or the good deed that is illustrated in each picture. Conclude by pointing out that they have the power, too, to improve the world wherever they go—at home, in school, in the local community.

## Profession of Faith

**Leader:** Please stand for our Profession of Faith and respond to each statement with, "Yes, I do believe."

Do you believe that God the Father is one with Jesus the Son?

**Children:** Yes, I do believe.

**Leader:** Do you believe that the Father and the Son are one with all who believe in them?

**Children:** Yes, I do believe.

**Leader:** Do you believe that the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son and fills the hearts of those who believe in God?

**Children:** Yes, I do believe.

## Prayer of the Faithful

**Leader:** We've got the power—the power of love! As people forever joined to Christ, let us show Christ like love for others by praying for their needs. Our response to each petition will be, "Hear us, O Lord." That all leaders of the Church will be strong in the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

**Children:** Hear us, O Lord.

**Leader:** That God's light will shine in the minds of all world leaders, let us pray to the Lord.

**Children:** Hear us, O Lord.

**Leader:** That the Lord Jesus will rule over our hearts and homes, let us pray to the Lord.

**Children:** Hear us, O Lord.

**Leader:** *Invite the children to pray their own petitions. Then pray:*

Let us pray. Loving God, you share your goodness and power with all who believe in you. May the love that you are be the love that we share with everyone we meet. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**Children:** Amen.

## Return to Assembly

The Liturgy of the Word ends with the Prayer of the Faithful. Prepare the children to return to the assembly in a respectful manner. If you haven't already done so, distribute the leaflets. Remind the children to take the leaflets home and share them with their families. Encourage them to watch this week's Gospel Reflection video and complete the Family Corner activities as a family.

May 29, 2022

Seventh Sunday of Easter

# Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

## Today's Readings

Acts 7:55–60  
Psalm 97:1, 6, 9  
John 17:20–21

Jesus Prays for His Followers

## Preparation

### Children's Leaflet

Have on hand copies of the Children's Leaflet for this Sunday. Distribute copies either at the start of the session or before the children return to the assembly.



## Prepare with Prayer

You who love the LORD, hate evil, he protects the souls of the faithful, rescues them from the hand of the wicked. Light dawns for the just, and gladness for the honest of heart. Rejoice in the LORD, you just, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness. (Psalm 97:10-12)

## Scripture Background

The reading from Acts relates an early Christian tradition about Stephen as the Church's first martyr. Since the fifth century, a spot to the north of the Damascus Gate in Old Jerusalem has been venerated as the place of Stephen's martyrdom. In today's reading, the holiness of his Death is attested to by his final heavenly vision and by his last words, so obviously an echo of Jesus' own.

The Gospel contains a short passage from the much longer "High Priestly Prayer" found in John's account of the Last Supper. Jesus prays that unity always will be the hallmark of his followers. Without unity, their ability to witness to the loving unity of Christ with his Father will be seriously impeded. Therefore, to keep pure the Gospel message, which they are called both to model and to proclaim, Jesus' followers must remain united.

People old enough to remember the Catholic Church before Vatican II know that this passage from John became the inspiration for a whole new era of good relations between

## Prepare the Meeting Space

At home, browse through newspapers and magazines to find pictures of people showing kindness to others and doing good in the world. These will be used during the homily.

In the meeting room, put some chairs in a circle, enough for each child to have a seat. (Depending on the number of children in your group, you may need more than one circle.) Have ready a music player and a recording, perhaps of a hymn stressing Christian unity. On the bottom of one chair, tape a paper with the name of Jesus on it—and remember which chair that one is! In the worship area, on a table draped with a white cloth, place:

- ▶ a Lectionary
- ▶ a battery-operated candle

## Suggested Music

See page 64 for more information.

**Gathering:** "I Am the Way" (Seeds CD-2, Track #19) or "He Lives" (Promise & Good News CD-2, Track #4)

**Gospel Acclamation:** "Alleluia" (Promise & Good News CD-2, Track #24)

the Catholic Church and other Christian denominations. In localities all around the world, Christians began praying together in joint celebrations of their faith. Ecumenical studies blossomed on Catholic college campuses. It no longer was considered sinful for Catholics to participate in a service in another church, as long as they remained faithful to their Sunday Mass attendance. Older Catholics even remember being told it was a sin simply to look into another church through one of its clear glass windows!

The progress made in Christian unity since the early 1960s offers powerful evidence that the Council truly was a work of the Holy Spirit—the Spirit of love and unity.

## Children's Connections

The gathering activity no doubt will produce a little fun and laughter. But the importance of its underlying message will become clear as the liturgy continues.

A contemporary social commentator who attended a Catholic school in his youth says that, after all these years, one memory from his school days stands out above all others. Every time a police, fire, or ambulance siren sounded on the streets of the city, his classroom teacher paused to lead the students in prayer for whomever was in danger. The indelible lesson that he learned from this simple routine? Whatever happens to anyone out on the streets in some way happens to all of us, for we are our neighbors' keepers.

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## More About ...

### The Catechism on Christian Unity

- “The ruptures that wound the unity of Christ’s Body—here we must distinguish heresy, apostasy, and schism—do not occur without human sin.” (#817)
- “However, one cannot charge with the sin of the separation those who at present are born into these communities [that resulted from such separation] and in them are brought up in the faith of Christ, and the Catholic Church accepts them with respect and affection as brothers. ...All who have been justified by faith in Baptism are incorporated into Christ; they therefore have a right to be called Christians, and with good reason are accepted as brothers in the Lord by the children of the Catholic Church.” (#818)
- Elements of holiness and truth exist “outside the visible confines of the Catholic Church,” including God’s Word in the Bible and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. (#819)

As much as possible, include pictures of people representing various races, nationalities, social classes, physical sizes, etc.

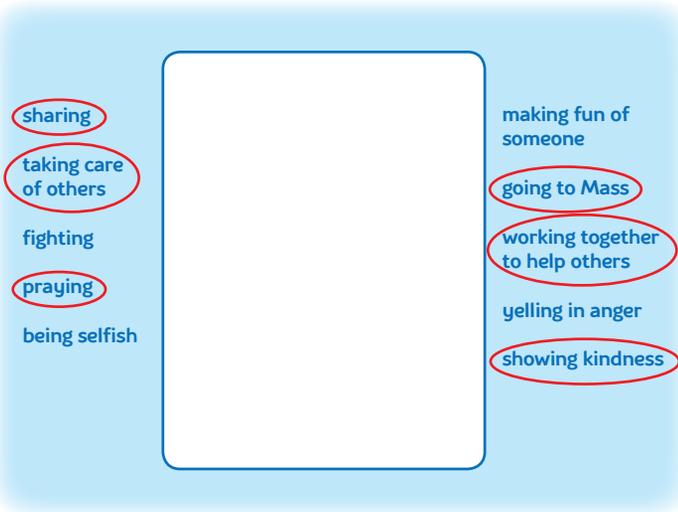
## The Children's Leaflet

The leaflet for this week helps the children learn about the Resurrection, through a prayer, a summary of the Gospel, and a creative activity.

Distribute copies of the leaflet. If time permits, read with the children the summary of this week's Gospel. Point out the artwork and ask the children what is happening in the picture.

## Leaflet Activity

Families are reminded that they should be united with Christ and with each other. The children's activity features a reminder of this message that children will decode. For your convenience, the solution is provided here.



## The Liturgy of the Word

### Gathering

Invite the children to be seated on the chairs. Add or subtract chairs from the circle as needed. Tell the children that today's liturgy will begin with an activity similar to musical chairs. When you start the music, they must walk around in a circle until the music stops. In the meantime you will have taken one chair out of the circle. Any person who does not sit down soon enough to get a chair must sit on someone's lap! Keep playing the game until only one chair is left, and all the children are sitting on it! That chair should be the one with the paper taped on bottom.

After the children have had their giggles, invite them all to stand up and form a circle around the lone chair left standing. Show them Jesus' name taped on the bottom, and explain that today's game was a little example of what happens when all different people come together in Jesus: they get close not only to Jesus but also to one another, and they experience much joy and delight!

### Collect

**Leader:** Please remain in the circle and hold hands for the opening prayer. For this litany, repeat the words "Amen, alleluia!" each time I say them. Lord Jesus, thank you for making us one in you. Amen, alleluia!

**Children:** Amen, alleluia!

**Leader:** We know that there is great joy in being one in you. Amen, alleluia!

**Children:** Amen, alleluia!

**Leader:** We know that when we are one in you, we can stand up to any difficulty. Amen, alleluia!

**Children:** Amen, alleluia!

*Invite the children to be seated. Light the candle and begin the First Reading.*

### First Reading

**Leader:** Our First Reading is about the very first person who died for his Christian faith. Although Saint Stephen stood alone in the middle of an angry crowd, he knew that he was not really alone. Christ was with him, and so were the prayers of other Christians.

*Read Acts 7:55-60. Then say, "The word of the Lord."*

**Children:** Thanks be to God.

### Responsorial Psalm

The psalm may be either sung or spoken. Before beginning, sing or announce the response.

**Leader:** The Lord is king, the most high over all the earth.

**Children:** The Lord is king, the most high over all the earth.

**Leader:** *Read Psalm 97:1, 6, 9.*

### Gospel Acclamation

Invite the children to stand. Sing the suggested Acclamation or another familiar one. If you choose not to sing the Acclamation, proceed to the proclamation of the Gospel.

### Proclaim the Gospel

**Leader:** Did you notice that, because Stephen was one with Christ, he died the same way Jesus had died—forgiving his enemies? In today's Gospel, we will "listen in" on a prayer that Jesus offered at

the Last Supper. He prayed that all his followers would be living examples of love, just as he and his Father in Heaven were living examples of love.

The Lord be with you.

**Children:** And with your spirit.

**Leader:** A reading from the Gospel of John.

**Children:** † Glory to you, O Lord.

**Leader:** *Read John 17:20–21. Then say, “The Gospel of the Lord.”*

**Children:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

## Homily

Remind the children that wherever Jesus is, there is love and unity. Jesus promised to remain present on earth until the end of time; he promised to be with people wherever they live together in love. Even at the scene of Stephen’s murder, Jesus was present. How? Jesus lived inside the kind and forgiving heart of Stephen.

Then hold up a series of photographs you have cut from newspapers and magazines, all of which show people being kind or doing good. Ask the children to help you describe the kindly act or the good deed that is illustrated in each picture. Conclude by pointing out that positive actions help unify people; negative actions divide them.

## Profession of Faith

**Leader:** Please stand now for the profession of faith and respond to each question with the words, “Yes, I do believe.”

Do you believe that God the Father is one with Jesus the Son?

**Children:** Yes, I do believe.

**Leader:** Do you believe that the Father and the Son are one with all who believe in them?

**Children:** Yes, I do believe.

**Leader:** Do you believe that the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son and fills the hearts of those who believe in God?

**Children:** Yes, I do believe.

## Prayer of the Faithful

**Leader:** United then by our faith in God, let us show our love for others by praying for their needs. Our response to each petition will be, “Jesus, make us one in you.”



For all members of the Church, along with their leaders, let us pray to the Lord.

**Children:** Jesus, make us one in you.

**Leader:** For all people on earth, along with their leaders, let us pray to the Lord.

**Children:** Jesus, make us one in you.

**Leader:** For all members of our families, living and dead, let us pray to the Lord.

**Children:** Jesus, make us one in you.

**Leader:** *Invite the children to pray their own petitions. Then pray:*

Let us pray. Lord Jesus, when we are one in you, we are one with each other, just as you and your Father are one in the Holy Spirit. May the love that you are be the love that we share with everyone we meet. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**Children:** Amen.

## Return to Assembly

The Liturgy of the Word ends with the Prayer of the Faithful. Prepare the children to return to the assembly in a respectful manner. If you haven’t already done so, distribute the leaflets. Remind the children to take the leaflets home and share them with their families. Encourage them to watch this week’s Gospel Reflection video and complete the Family Corner activities as a family.

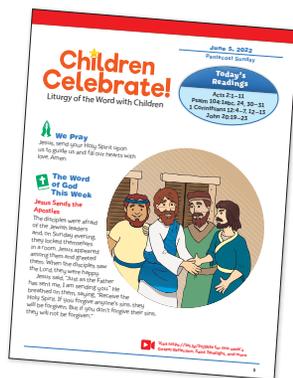
# Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

## Preparation

### Children's Leaflet

Have on hand copies of the Children's Leaflet for this Sunday. Distribute copies either at the start of the session or before the children return to the assembly.



## Prepare with Prayer

Bless the LORD, my soul; and do not forget all his gifts, Who pardons all your sins, and heals all your ills, Who redeems your life from the pit, and crowns you with mercy and compassion, Who fills your days with good things, so your youth is renewed like the eagle's. (Psalm 147:12–5)

## Scripture Background

Just one breath from our mighty God can be a powerful and disturbing thing—as it is in today's First Reading, when the Holy Spirit manifests as a strong wind taking a house by storm, setting afire the hearts of the people inside it, and attracting the confused attention of a crowd on the street.

At the same time, just one breath from our loving God can be a gentle and calming thing—as it is in today's Gospel, when the Holy Spirit blows softly through the lips of a loved one returned from the dead, thrilling his friends with the sheer miracle of it. Today's Second Reading develops yet one more idea about the breath of God. In his letter, Paul assures the Corinthians that the breath of God is active wherever living, breathing Christians build up the body of Christ by loving God and sharing their personal gifts with the human community.

Wherever the breath of God stirs, life is affirmed and renewed.

June 5, 2022

Pentecost Sunday

## Today's Readings

Acts 2:1–11  
Psalm 104:1abc, 24, 30–31  
1 Corinthians 12:4–7, 12–13  
John 20:19–23

Jesus Sends the Apostles

## Prepare the Meeting Space

For the gathering activity, bring two rolls of crepe paper or two sets of construction paper, one roll/set in a warm color and one in a cool color. If you use construction paper, also bring some straight pins.

In the worship area, on a table draped with a red cloth, place:

- ▶ a Lectionary
- ▶ a battery-operated candle

## Suggested Music

See page 64 for more information.

**Gathering:** "The Spirit Song" (Seeds CD-1, Track #15) or "Come, O Holy Spirit" (Promise & Good News CD-2, Track #9)

**Gospel Acclamation:** "Alleluia" (Promise & Good News CD-2, Track #24)

## Children's Connections

Admittedly, the suggested gathering activity might get a little rowdy. But ever since Barbie dolls first hit toy stores, we have known that young children sometimes enjoy pretending to be teenagers. This activity builds on a common, everyday meaning of the word *spirit* to lead up to a discussion of the *Holy Spirit*.

If you prefer a gentler alternative to the suggested activity—or if your group meets in a place where it is not wise to “raise the roof”—try this instead. Obtain a recording of a Pentecost hymn that has a smooth, flowing melody, and have the children move about the room “like the Holy Spirit” as they hear the song played. Remind them that sometimes the Holy Spirit is called the breath of God, and sometimes the Bible describes the Spirit as a wind moving across water or as a gentle breeze blowing through a mountain pass. Can they dance like the wind? Glide like a breeze?

## The Children's Leaflet

The leaflet for this week helps the children learn about Jesus' post-Resurrection appearance to the Apostles, through a prayer, a summary of the Gospel, and a creative activity.

If you distribute the leaflet now and time permits, you may wish to read with the children the summary of the Gospel in “The Word of God This Week” after you have read the Gospel. Point out the artwork and ask the children what is happening in the picture.

### Pope Francis' Pentecost reflection

“The world needs men and women who are not closed in on themselves, but filled with the Holy Spirit. Closing oneself off from the Holy Spirit means not only a lack of freedom; it is a sin. ... The gift of the Holy Spirit has been bestowed upon the Church and upon each one of us, so that we may live lives of genuine faith and active charity, that we may sow the seeds of reconciliation and peace.”

*Homily of His Holiness Pope Francis Solemnity of Pentecost, May 24, 2015, Vatican.va*

## More About ...

### The Catechism on the Holy Spirit and the Church

- “The mission of Christ and the Holy Spirit is brought to completion in the Church, which is the Body of Christ and the Temple of the Holy Spirit.” (#737)
- The Spirit *prepares* people with grace that draws them to Christ. The Spirit *manifests* the Risen Lord to them by recalling his word to them and opening their minds to the understanding of his Death and Resurrection. The Spirit *makes present* the mystery of Christ, “supremely in the Eucharist, in order to reconcile them, to *bring them into communion* with God, that they may “bear much fruit.” (#737)
- Christ, “as the head of the Body, pours out the Spirit among his members to nourish, heal, and organize them in their mutual functions, to give them life, send them to bear witness, and associate them to his self-offering to the Father.” (#739)

## Leaflet Activity

As families celebrate Pentecost, they learn that the Holy Spirit is like the breath of God, giving life to all who follow Jesus. Children will learn the names of the gifts the Holy Spirit gives us in a coloring activity.



## The Liturgy of the Word

### Gathering

Ask the children if they know what school spirit is. Explain that one way older kids show school spirit is by cheering for their sports teams during games. Today, just for fun, we are going to set up two “schools”—one for the “Cools” and one for the “Hots”—and we are going to pretend we are cheering for our basketball teams.

Have all the children who are wearing mostly cool colors (green, blue, purple, black) gather on one side of the room, and those wearing mostly hot colors (white, yellow, orange, red) stand on the opposite side. If one group is significantly larger than the other, ask a few children on that side to join the other side. Just for fun, decorate these “Honorary Cools” or “Honorary Hots” with crepe paper streamers or with sheets of construction paper in the right color range.

Have the Hots begin by clapping and stamping while calling out the following cheer.

We’ve got spirit, yes, we do!

We’ve got spirit, how about you?

On the last word, have them stop clapping and point at the Cools. Then the Cools do the same thing, but they try to be louder than the Hots were. The cheer alternates sides until a clear

winner emerges—or until you can’t stand the noise any longer!

When the game is finished, ask the children to go to the worship area and be seated.

### Collect

**Leader:** Please fold your hands and bow your heads for our opening prayer. Loving God, whenever we talk about showing the world our spirit, we usually mean things like loyalty, enthusiasm, or courage. But what does it mean to show the world the Holy Spirit? Is that something we can do, too? Tell us, O Lord, through the word that you will speak to us in the holy Scripture today. This we ask through Christ our Lord.

**Children:** Amen.

*Invite the children to be seated. Light the candle and begin the First Reading.*

### First Reading

**Leader:** In today’s First Reading, the Apostles are all together in one place after the Risen Lord has returned to Heaven. As you listen, watch for three different signs that the Holy Spirit has come.

*Read Acts 2:1-11. Then say, “The word of the Lord.”*

**Children:** Thanks be to God.

### Responsorial Psalm

The psalm may be sung or spoken. Before beginning the psalm, sing or announce this response.

**Leader:** Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

**Children:** Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

**Leader:** *Read Psalm 104:1abc, 24, 30-31.*

### Second Reading

**Leader:** Can you tell me what the three signs of the Holy Spirit were? (mighty wind, tongues of flame, gift of tongues) OK, that was then, but this is now. Do you know what the signs of the Holy Spirit are today? Listen to this reading from Saint Paul, and later we’ll talk about it.

*Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 12-13. Then say, “The word of the Lord.”*

**Children:** Thanks be to God.

## Gospel Acclamation

Invite the children to stand. Sing the suggested Acclamation or another familiar one. If you choose not to sing the Acclamation, proceed to the proclamation of the Gospel.

## Proclaim the Gospel

**Leader:** Today's Gospel takes us back to the very first Easter Sunday and describes another important time when the Holy Spirit came upon the Apostles.

The Lord be with you.

**Children:** And with your spirit.

**Leader:** A reading from the Gospel of John.

**Children:** † Glory to you, O Lord.

**Leader:** *Read John 20:19–23. Then say, "The Gospel of the Lord."*

**Children:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

## Homily

Base a talk on these ideas and questions:

- Did you notice how different the First Reading was from the Gospel?
  - ▶ In the First Reading, the Holy Spirit came upon the Apostles as a mighty wind.
  - ▶ In the Gospel, the Holy Spirit came in the form of a gentle breath of air.
  - ▶ In the First Reading, the Apostles received a really extraordinary gift—the ability to speak in new languages.
  - ▶ In the Gospel, the Apostles were given an even more important gift—the ability to forgive sins in Jesus' name.
- Notice that both gifts were for the good of others.
  - ▶ In the First Reading, foreigners from all around the world were waiting to hear from the Apostles—and suddenly the Apostles spoke in languages the people understood.
  - ▶ In the Gospel, Jesus knew that people would need someone to keep forgiving their sins.
- Still today, people receive God's forgiveness through the words of the priest.
  - ▶ But *who else* nowadays receives special gifts from the Holy Spirit?
  - ▶ Every Christian does! That was what Saint Paul said in the Second Reading. (Reread 1 Corinthians 12:7.)

- ▶ Through our Baptism, every one of us has the breath of God in us, which makes every one of us a sign of the Holy Spirit in the world.

- (*Chanting*) I've got the Holy Spirit, yes, I do!  
I've got the Holy Spirit, how about you?

## Profession of Faith

**Leader:** Please stand for the Profession of faith and respond to each question with the words, "Yes, I do believe."

Do you believe that God the Father blesses you every day of your life?

**Children:** Yes, I do believe.

**Leader:** Do you believe that God the Son forgives you whenever you show true sorrow for your sins?

**Children:** Yes, I do believe.

**Leader:** Do you believe that God the Holy Spirit lives in you like the breath of God?

**Children:** Yes, I do believe.

## Prayer of the Faithful

**Leader:** As God's children—gifted by the Holy Spirit at our Baptism—let us pray. Our response to each petition is, "Lord, send out your Spirit." Upon all leaders of the Church, we pray.

**Children:** Lord, send out your Spirit.

**Leader:** Upon people of every nation, we pray.

**Children:** Lord, send out your Spirit.

**Leader:** Upon the members of our families, we pray.

**Children:** Lord, send out your Spirit.

**Leader:** *Invite the children to pray their own petitions. Then pray:*

Let us pray. Thank you, Lord, for breathing into us the life of your Holy Spirit, through Christ our Lord.

**Children:** Amen.

## Return to Assembly

The Liturgy of the Word ends with the Prayer of the Faithful. Prepare the children to return to the assembly in a respectful manner. If you haven't already done so, distribute the leaflets. Remind the children to take the leaflets home and share them with their families. Encourage them to watch this week's Gospel Reflection video and complete the Family Corner activities as a family.

June 12, 2022

The Most Holy Trinity

# Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

Today's Readings

Proverbs 8:22–31  
Psalm 8:3–4, 5–6, 7–8  
John 16:12–15

The Holy Spirit Teaches Us

## Preparation

### Children's Leaflet

Have on hand copies of the Children's Leaflet for this Sunday. Distribute copies either at the start of the session or before the children return to the assembly.



## Prepare with Prayer

The LORD rules forever, has set up his throne for judgment. It is he who judges the world with justice, who judges the peoples with fairness. The LORD is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. Those who know your name trust in you; you never forsake those who seek you, LORD. (Psalm 9:8–11)

## Scripture Background

Because Christianity began as a religious movement within Judaism, early believers liked to comb the Old Testament for passages that could be interpreted as prophecies about Jesus Christ.

Today's excerpt from Proverbs, personifying the quality of Wisdom, is an example of such a passage. For the early Church, it was an easy leap from seeing Christ as the Wisdom of God, present already at the dawn of Creation, to conceptualizing him as the Word of God sent from Heaven. (Compare today's First Reading, for example, with John 1:1–3.)

Today's Gospel reflects the Church's earliest insights into the identity of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit was to be a guide, a teacher, and a companion who in some mysterious way would become for the disciples Jesus' "replacement" after his Ascension to Heaven.

It is important to note that no single scriptural passage contains a fully developed statement of doctrine about the Holy

## Prepare the Meeting Space

In the worship area, on a table draped with a white cloth, place:

- ▶ a Lectionary
- ▶ a battery-operated candle
- ▶ a globe
- ▶ a pan of dirt

## Suggested Music

See page 64 for more information.

**Gathering:** "The Trinity" (Seeds CD-2, Track #22) or "The Trinity" (Promise & Good News CD-2, Track #19)

**Gospel Acclamation:** "Alleluia" (Promise & Good News CD-2, Track #24)

Trinity. That task was left to theologians who lived long after the completion of the New Testament. Among them, for example, was Saint Gregory of Nazianzen, who wrote in *The Fifth Theological Oration*. On the Holy Spirit:

The Old Testament proclaimed the Father openly, and the Son more obscurely. The New manifested the Son, and suggested the Deity of the Spirit. Now the Spirit Himself dwells among us, and supplies us with a clearer demonstration of Himself. For it was not safe, when the Godhead of the Father was not yet acknowledged, plainly to proclaim the Son; nor when that of the Son was not yet received to burden us further (if I may use so bold an expression) with the Holy Ghost; lest perhaps people might, like men loaded with food beyond their strength, and presenting eyes as yet too weak to bear it to the sun's light, risk the loss even of that which was within the reach of their powers. (XXVI)

## Children's Connections

The “two hands of the Father” explanation of the Trinity that is used in today's homily comes from the writings of Saint Irenaeus. Its simplicity ideally suits this idea for use with children.

“How children love *poetry*—its rhyme, rhythm, the stories and thoughts, and its nonsense too,” says teacher-author Anne Rogovin in her book *1,001 Activities for Children* (New York: Gramercy Books, 1992). “They love the same poems over and over and over again. They might even like to sing them, chant them, and get to know them by heart.”

For today's gathering activity, children will enjoy pantomiming the beloved African-American poem “The Creation,” by James Weldon Johnson. You can find it in poetry collections at your local library or online at [bartleby.com/269/41.html](http://bartleby.com/269/41.html).

This vivid narrative poem is full of action words that easily inspire pantomime: *stepped, looked, smiled, reached, rolled, gathered, hurled, walked, spat, batted, clapped*, etc. Lead the children in a pantomime while an assistant reads the poem aloud, with great expression and frequent dramatic pauses. (Ask for the help of another

## More About ...

### The Catechism on the Holy Trinity

- God's “inmost Being as Holy Trinity is a mystery that is inaccessible to reason alone or even to Israel's faith before the Incarnation of God's Son and the sending of the Holy Spirit.” (#237)
- By calling God “Father,” we acknowledge two main things: (1) God is the source of everything and the transcendent authority; and (2) at the same time God exercises the loving care of a parent for all humanity. (#239)
- “The Incarnation of God's Son reveals that God is the eternal Father and that the Son is consubstantial with the Father, which means that, in the Father and with the Father, the Son is one and the same God.” (#262)
- “The mission of the Holy Spirit, sent by the Father in the name of the Son (John 14:26) and by the Son ‘from the Father’ (John 15:26), reveals that, with them, the Spirit is one and the same God.”

adult or a teenager, perhaps one involved in a high school speech or drama class, and make sure the two of you practice together at least one time before meeting with the children.)

If you would rather substitute a hymn for the poem, choose one in praise of the Creator God, and invite the children to sing or dance along.

## The Children's Leaflet

The leaflet for this week helps the children learn about the Holy Spirit, through a prayer, a summary of the Gospel, and a creative activity.

If you distribute the leaflet now and time permits, you may wish to read with the children the summary of the Gospel in “The Word of God This Week” after you have read the Gospel. Point out the artwork and ask the children what is happening in the picture.

## Leaflet Activity

This week, the Gospel focuses on the mystery of the Holy Trinity. Families can understand the mystery as the Son and the Spirit as two hands of the Father, reaching to us from Heaven. Children will complete a poem about God in this week's activity. For your convenience, the solution is provided here.

<b>Spirit</b> ways	<b>guide</b> us	<b>days</b> within	<b>Savior</b> sins
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We believe that God loves **us**.

He shows his love in many **ways**.

God sent us his Son and **Spirit**.

To brighten all our **days**.

Jesus was sent to be our **Savior**.

To save us from our **sins**.

The Spirit was sent to be our **guide**.

To help us find the good **within**.

## The Liturgy of the Word

### Gathering

After you are finished with the opening song or poem, ask these questions:

Do you think God had fun creating the world?  
If you could have been there when God made the world, what would you have most wanted to see?

### Collect

**Leader:** *Invite the children to bow their heads for the opening prayer.* Every time you hear me say, "Amen," please reply "Amen, Amen." God the Creator, thank you for making our wonderful world. Amen.

**Children:** Amen, Amen.

**Leader:** God the Son, thank you for living in our world as a human being. Amen.

**Children:** Amen, Amen.

**Leader:** God the Holy Spirit, thank you for staying in our world until the end of time. Amen.

**Children:** Amen, Amen.

*Invite the children to be seated. Light the candle and begin the First Reading.*

### First Reading

**Leader:** When God made the world, three persons of God were fully present and part of the action: Father, Son, and Spirit. As you listen to this First Reading, try to imagine that God the Son is in the room with us right now, sharing his memories of when the world was made.

*Read Proverbs 8:22-31. Then say, "The word of the Lord."*

**Children:** Thanks be to God.

### Responsorial Psalm

The psalm may be either sung or spoken. Before beginning, sing or announce the response.

**Leader:** O Lord, our God, how wonderful your name in all the earth!

**Children:** O Lord, our God, how wonderful your name in all the earth!

**Leader:** *Read Psalm 8:3-4, 5-6, 7-8.*

### Gospel Acclamation

Invite the children to stand. Sing the suggested Acclamation or another familiar one. If you choose not to sing the Acclamation, proceed to the proclamation of the Gospel.

### Proclaim the Gospel

**Leader:** Now we are going to hear Jesus talk about God the Holy Spirit. This time, try to imagine that we are sitting with Jesus and his Apostles at the Last Supper, the night before Jesus died. These are Jesus' words to them.

The Lord be with you.

**Children:** And with your Spirit.

**Leader:** A reading from the Gospel of John.

**Children:** † Glory to you, O Lord.

**Leader:** *Read John 16:12-15. Then say, "The Gospel of the Lord."*

**Children:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

## Homily

First, reread the Gospel one verse at a time, adding each of the following observations after each verse:

- ▶ Vs. 12: Remember, when Jesus said this, he had already been with his disciples a long time, and he had told them so many new things that probably their heads hurt!
- ▶ Vs. 13: The disciples were feeling a little lost. Jesus was saying that he was about to leave them, but he would send a new teacher and companion to stay with them—the Holy Spirit.
- ▶ Vs. 14: Here, Jesus said that he and the Spirit are one.
- ▶ Vs. 15: Here, Jesus said that he and the Father are one.

Remind the group that we Catholics believe in one God in three persons. Long, long ago, Saint Irenaeus described the mystery this way: God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are like the two hands of God the Father, reaching out to us from Heaven.

End the homily with this demonstration:

- ▶ Point to the globe and say, “God didn’t walk away from the world after making it. God kept watch over it.”
- ▶ Put a handful of dirt on the ball, then say, “And soon God saw people dirtying the world with sin. So God sent Jesus to the world to save it from sin.”
- ▶ Wipe the ball clean with one hand, then say, “And when Jesus was all finished with his work in the world, still God did not leave the world alone.”
- ▶ Withdraw your “Jesus” hand from the globe and touch it with the other hand, while saying, “God sent the Spirit to stay in the world.”
- ▶ While smoothing and polishing the globe with your “Spirit” hand, conclude, “Today all Christians everywhere, with the help of the Holy Spirit, are continuing Jesus’ work in the world—saving it from sin.”

## Profession of Faith

**Leader:** Please stand for the Profession of Faith. Again, when I say “Amen,” respond “Amen, Amen.” I believe in God the Father, who loved us into being. Amen.

**Children:** Amen, Amen.

**Leader:** I believe in God the Son, who saved us from sin. Amen.

**Children:** Amen, Amen.

**Leader:** I believe in God the Holy Spirit, who stays with us to the end of time. Amen.

**Children:** Amen, Amen.

## Prayer of the Faithful

**Leader:** Children, I want to share a little secret with you. In our prayers today we have said “Amen” three times—just as one, small way to honor the three persons of the Blessed Trinity. Now let us join together in asking the Trinity for all that we need. Our response to each petition will be, “Hear us, Father, Son, and Spirit.”

For the leaders of the Church all around the world, let us pray to the Lord.

**Children:** Hear us, Father, Son, and Spirit.

**Leader:** For the people living in violent neighborhoods all around the world, let us pray to the Lord.

**Children:** Hear us, Father, Son, and Spirit.

**Leader:** For the people living in our part of the world, let us pray to the Lord.

**Children:** Hear us, Father, Son, and Spirit.

**Leader:** *Invite the children to pray their own petitions. Then pray:*

Let us pray. Loving Creator God, you have touched our lives by reaching out to us through your Son and your Holy Spirit. For these great favors, may we glorify you forever and ever.

**Children:** Amen.

## Return to Assembly

The Liturgy of the Word ends with the Prayer of the Faithful. Prepare the children to return to the assembly in a respectful manner. If you haven’t already done so, distribute the leaflets. Remind the children to take the leaflets home and share them with their families. Encourage them to watch this week’s Gospel Reflection video and complete the Family Corner activities as a family.

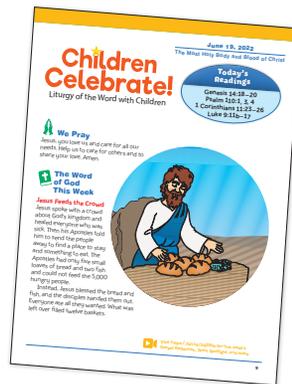
# Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

## Preparation

### Children's Leaflet

Have on hand copies of the Children's Leaflet for this Sunday. Distribute copies either at the start of the session or before the children return to the assembly.



### Prepare with Prayer

Hallelujah! I will praise the LORD with all my heart in the assembled congregation of the upright. Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them. Majestic and glorious is his work, his righteousness endures forever. He won renown for his wondrous deeds; gracious and merciful is the LORD. (Psalm 111:1-4)

### Scripture Background

Today's First Reading gives us a glimpse into the tribal life of ancient near Eastern societies. Leaders like Melchizedek, who served his tribe as both priest and king, were the rule rather than the exception. Abraham was simply giving him a king's due when he offered Melchizedek one-tenth of his belongings.

In the Second Reading, Paul is correcting certain abuses that have begun occurring among the Christians of Corinth. At Eucharistic gatherings, wealthier Christians are getting drunk and overeating while neglecting the needs of the hungry who are sitting in their midst. People have forgotten that the Eucharistic banquet, first and foremost, is a remembrance of Christ's *Death* and, therefore, is a call to imitate his self-sacrifice. Every multiplication miracle in the Gospels has something to say about the mystery of the Eucharist. In today's story, the 5,000 who eat their fill yet leave behind twelve baskets of "leftovers" suggests the abundance to be found at the table of the Lord.

## Today's Readings

Genesis 14:18–20  
Psalm 110:1, 3, 4  
1 Corinthians 11:23–26  
Luke 9:11b–17

Jesus Feeds the Crowd

## Prepare the Meeting Space

In the worship area, on a table draped with a white cloth, place:

- ▶ a Lectionary
- ▶ a battery-operated candle
- ▶ a wine bottle
- ▶ a loaf of bread
- ▶ a potted plant or vase of flowers

### Suggested Music

See page 64 for more information.

**Gathering:** "Gather Together" (*Seeds* CD-2, Track #1) or "Come Do This in Memory of Me" (*Promise & Good News* CD-1, Track #20)

**Gospel Acclamation:** "Alleluia" (*Promise & Good News* CD-2, Track #24)

As Christians, we are among the fortunate ones who have been called to the feast Christ has prepared for us. If we truly pattern ourselves on our Divine Master, however, we'll soon be inviting others to join us and to share in our bounty.

## Children's Connections

A suggestion for today's gathering activity is to play an old joke that has been used at many youth gatherings. Its purpose is to underscore how much we all enjoy belonging to special groups with special privileges.

After the children have gathered in the worship area, ask if any of them know about the Secret Society of Siam. Then, while putting on a sash or headdress, tell the group that it is a secret club for children that's a little like the Scouts, because the members play games together and have lots of fun. Then tell them that today you are going to make them official members by leading them through a special initiation ceremony.

Ask the group to face east, toward Siam. They should repeat these words and gestures after you: with hands raised high overhead, solemnly chant, "Oh-whaaa!" Making a deep bow with hands still extended, chant, "Ta-guuuuu." Reverting to standing posture, hands again extended high overhead, chant, "Si-ammmm." Then repeat the ritual, this time faster. Keep repeating it, faster and faster, until *someone* realizes that the group is actually chanting, "Oh, what a goose I am!" (If no one catches on, point it out yourself by exclaiming, "April Fools' Day in May—you gaggle of silly geese!")

After the children have had their laugh, explain that of course there is no such thing as a Secret Society of Siam. But as human beings, we do want to belong to special groups that enjoy special privileges. Today we celebrate the fact that the most special group in all the world is the Church, because members of the Church enjoy the privilege of receiving Christ's own body and blood at every celebration of the Eucharist.

Encourage the children who have not yet made their First Communion to think about what an important day it will be in their lives when it finally comes. As you speak, don't hesitate to share from the depth of your own personal faith. What was memorable about your First Communion?

## More About ...

### The Catechism on the Real Presence

- The way Christ is present in the Eucharist is unique. (#1374)
- In the bread and wine that the priest consecrates and gives to the assembly is "the whole Christ" who is "truly, really, and substantially contained." (#1374)
- Christ's real presence in the Eucharist does not exclude "the other types of presence as if they could not be 'real' too." (#1374)
- It is not the priest who makes Christ truly present in the Eucharist. Transubstantiation is the work of Christ himself and the Holy Spirit. (#1375)
- Of this great mystery Saint Ambrose wrote: "Could not Christ's word, which can make from nothing what did not exist, change existing things into what they were not before? It is no less a feat to give things their original nature than to change their nature." (#1375)
- The Eucharistic presence of Christ begins at the moment of the Consecration and endures as long as the Eucharistic species subsist. (#1377)

What does partaking of the Eucharist mean to you today?

## The Children's Leaflet

The leaflet for this week helps children learn about God's mercy and love through the Parable of the Lost Son, through a prayer, a summary of the Gospel, and a creative activity.

You may distribute the leaflet now, for use during the session, or before the children return to the assembly. If you distribute the leaflet now and time permits, you may wish to read with the children the summary of the Gospel in "The Word of God This Week" after you have read the Gospel. Point out the artwork and ask the children what is happening in the picture.

## Leaflet Activity

Families will find a Gospel connection to the Last Supper in this week's leaflet. Children will complete a puzzle to decode Jesus' actions. For your convenience, the solution is provided here.

Letter Code		
A = 	E = 	N = 
B = 	H = 	S = 
D = 	L = 	V = 

"He looked up toward h e a v e n  
       
 and b l e s s e d the food."  
      

## The Liturgy of the Word

### Gathering

See Children's Connections on page 25 for a suggested activity. If you prefer using a more traditional opening for today's liturgy, play or sing a Eucharistic hymn as the children enter the worship area. After the song is finished, say a few words about the great privilege we enjoy as Catholics who gather regularly for the celebration of Eucharist.

### Collect

**Leader:** *Invite the children to bow their heads. Then pray:*

Lord Jesus, thank you for making us members of the Church. Thank you for giving your Church the gift of yourself in the forms of bread and wine. We praise you and thank you for the many blessings you have given us, now and forever.

**Children:** Amen.

*Invite the children to be seated. Light the candle and begin the First Reading.*

### First Reading

**Leader:** Two blessed men of ancient times were Melchizedek, who was both a priest and a king, and Abraham, our father in faith. In today's First

Reading, we will hear about a sort of gift exchange that happened between them.

*Read Genesis 14:18-20. Then say, "The word of the Lord."*

**Children:** Thanks be to God.

### Responsorial Psalm

The psalm may be either sung or spoken. Before beginning the psalm, sing or announce the response.

**Leader:** You are a priest forever, in the line of Melchizedek.

**Children:** You are a priest forever, in the line of Melchizedek.

**Leader:** *Read Psalm 110:1, 3, 4.*

### Second Reading

**Leader:** We all know that the Apostles were blessed because they were with Jesus constantly, learning from his word and example. In the Second Reading, we will learn about the special time they spent with him at the Last Supper.

*Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26. Then say, "The word of the Lord."*

**Children:** Thanks be to God.

### Gospel Acclamation

Invite the children to stand. Sing the suggested Acclamation or another familiar one. If you choose not to sing the Acclamation, proceed to the proclamation of the Gospel.

### Proclaim the Gospel

**Leader:** In the Second Reading, we saw that Jesus taught the Apostles to keep his memory alive by sharing his body and blood at every Eucharist. In today's Gospel, we will hear of a time when Jesus fed 5,000 people all at once. He did this to show that he hoped many people one day would be part of the Eucharistic feast.

The Lord be with you.

**Children:** And with your Spirit.

**Leader:** A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

**Children:** † Glory to you, O Lord.

**Leader:** *Read Luke 9:11b-17. Then say, "The Gospel of the Lord."*

**Children:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

## Homily

1. Note that we can call all the characters from today's Bible readings blessed, and give-and-take was a big part of each one's good fortune, or blessedness.
  - ▶ Melchizedek gave a blessing and received one-tenth of Abraham's riches as a tribute.
  - ▶ The Twelve Apostles gave Jesus their time and attention at the Last Supper, and they received Jesus' own body and blood.
  - ▶ The 5,000 gave Jesus their complete attention and in return received food for body (loaves and fishes) and soul (his teachings).
2. If we want to receive a blessing from God during Mass, we, too, need to give God our full attention.
  - ▶ Even if we are too young to receive the Eucharist, God still will bless us in other ways.
  - ▶ Blessings can include the lessons we learn from the Bible and the homily, the beauty we enjoy through church art and music, and the peace we share with friends and family.



## Profession of Faith

**Leader:** Please stand for the profession of faith. Our response will be "I believe in God." I believe in God, our loving Creator, who sent us the Son to save us from sin and lead us to fullness of life.

**Children:** I believe in God.

**Leader:** I believe in God the Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who feeds us with his own body and blood at every celebration of the Eucharist.

**Children:** I believe in God.

**Leader:** I believe in God the Holy Spirit, who comes upon the gifts of bread and wine that they might become the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Children:** I believe in God.

## Prayer of the Faithful

**Leader:** How blessed we are to be fed, body and soul, at every celebration of the Eucharist! Now let us pray that all the world's hungers will be satisfied. Our response to each petition will be, "Let us taste and see your goodness, O Lord." For people in the Church who are hungry for God's truth, let us pray to the Lord.

**Children:** Let us taste and see your goodness, O Lord.

**Leader:** For people in the world who are hungry for peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Children:** Let us taste and see your goodness, O Lord.

**Leader:** For people in our families who are hungry for love, let us pray to the Lord.

**Children:** Let us taste and see your goodness, O Lord.

**Leader:** *Invite the children to pray their own petitions. Then pray:*

Let us pray. Lord God, you have blessed us with membership in your Church. Help us to grow daily in love for your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave us the gifts of his own body and blood, then poured out his life for us on the Cross. May he be praised forever and ever.

**Children:** Amen.

## Return to Assembly

The Liturgy of the Word ends with the Prayer of the Faithful. Prepare the children to return to the assembly in a respectful manner. If you haven't already done so, distribute the leaflets. Remind the children to take the leaflets home and share them with their families. Encourage them to watch this week's Gospel Reflection video and complete the Family Corner activities as a family.

# Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

Jesus Teaches About God's Kingdom

## Today's Readings

1 Kings 19:16b, 19–21  
Psalm 16:1–2ab and 5, 7–8, 11  
Galatians 5:1, 13–15  
Luke 9:57–62

## Preparation

### Children's Leaflet

Have on hand copies of the Children's Leaflet for this Sunday. Distribute copies either at the start of the session or before the children return to the assembly.



## Prepare with Prayer

My steps have kept to your paths; my feet have not faltered. I call upon you; answer me, O God. Turn your ear to me; hear my speech. I am just—let me see your face; when I awake, let me be filled with your presence. (Psalm 17:5–6, 15)

## Scripture Background

In today's First Reading, Elisha performs a ritual after being called by God. It symbolizes the sacrifice that often is required of anyone who agrees to serve the Lord. Things that might have seemed supremely important before answering the call suddenly take second place or occupy no place at all in one's life. For Elisha these were the things connected with his occupation of farming.

In the Second Reading, Paul reminds us that there is no such thing as freedom without responsibility for Christians. If Christ has freed us from sin, it is so that we may assume with him the responsibility of continuing his redeeming work in the world. We do that whenever we love others as readily as, by nature, we love ourselves.

Today's Gospel is part of a larger section of Luke that describes the costs and rewards of discipleship. Jesus might seem unnecessarily harsh in today's Gospel, but keep in mind the Jewish habit of teaching by using hyperbole—stretching a point to make a point. This passage is actually a set of three

## Prepare the Meeting Space

In the worship area, on a table draped with a green cloth, place:

- ▶ a Lectionary
- ▶ a battery-operated candle

In a separate area, set up a "game board" on a table top or on the floor. The game board will consist of a sheet of paper on which you have drawn a tic-tac-toe board with a word from this list occupying each square: Mom, Dad, teacher, Grandma, Grandpa, Jesus, coach, children's liturgy leader, babysitter. Gather some buttons (or coins) for tossing.

## Suggested Music

See page 64 for more information.

**Gathering:** "Come Gather" (Seeds CD-2, Track #2) or "Come and Follow Me" (Promise & Good News CD-2, Track #14)

**Gospel Acclamation:** "Alleluia" (Promise & Good News CD-2, Track #24)

wise sayings strung together (vss. 58, 60, 62) by a loose narrative. The aphorisms may represent things Jesus actually said to three different would-be followers in the course of his travels, or they may represent things he typically said to those who wanted to become his disciples. In either case, the larger point remains intact. Discipleship requires a radical reordering of priorities.

## Children's Connections

In an episode of a once-popular television drama, a young girl was caught in an act of juvenile bullying during a sleepover party at her house. While she and her friends were hovering over a computer, giggling about insulting messages they had just posted to a classmate, the girl's mother walked in. As soon as Mom realized what was going on, she instantly shut down the computer and sent her daughter's friends packing, pronouncing the end of the sleepover. Did Mom act too hastily? Later in the episode, the woman explained to her tearful daughter, "That is not the kind of girl I want you to be!"

The fact is, sometimes children understand the severity of an offense only when hasty, uncompromising action is taken in response to it. Even if children do not understand immediately, eventually they will. There are times in all of our lives when, regardless of our age, staying true to Jesus requires a quick departure—either away from something that shouldn't preoccupy us or toward something that should. It is as if Jesus is standing right there, like a firm but loving parent, saying, "Drop everything. Let's go!"

The aim of today's liturgy is to help children recognize some of the practical instances in their young lives when it is a loving act of service simply to obey a command, whether it comes directly from Christ himself or from an authority figure God has placed in their lives.

## More About ...

### The Catechism on Obedience and Freedom

- Persons of faith willingly submit their minds and wills to God. "Sacred Scripture calls this human response to God, the author of revelation, 'the obedience of faith.'" (#143)
- "To obey (from the Latin *obaudire*, to 'hear or listen to') in faith is to submit freely to the word that has been heard, because its truth is guaranteed by God, who is Truth itself. Abraham is the model of such obedience offered us by Sacred Scripture. The Virgin Mary is its most perfect embodiment." (#144)
- "Freedom is the power, rooted in reason and will, to act or not to act, to do this or that, and so to perform deliberate actions on one's own responsibility." (#1731)
- "The more one does what is good, the freer one becomes. There is no true freedom except in the service of what is good and just." (#1733)
- The more we pray, "the more docile we are to the promptings of grace, the more we grow in inner freedom and confidence during trials." (#1742)

## The Children's Leaflet

The leaflet for this week helps the children learn about Jesus' teaching about the Kingdom of God, through a prayer, a summary of the Gospel, and a creative activity.

You may distribute the leaflet now, for use during the session, or before the children return to the assembly. If you distribute the leaflet now and time permits, you may wish to read with the children the summary of the Gospel in "The Word of God This Week" after you have read the Gospel.

## Leaflet Activity

This week, families will learn that serving God can mean having to sacrifice. In this week's leaflet, children will unscramble words to learn about several examples of sacrifice. For your convenience, the solution is provided here.



You are reading a good book but your mom wants you to play with your little brother.

I will have to put **o t h e r s** first.



You are eating your favorite snack. A friend asks to have some.

I will have to **s h a r e**.



You are visiting friends and your parents say it is time to go home.

I will have to give up **f u n t i m e** with my friends.



You play goalie on your soccer team. Another student joins the team and is a better goalie than you are.

I will have to give up my **p l a c e** on the team.

## The Liturgy of the Word

### Gathering

Assemble the children around the game board. Explain that volunteers will take turns tossing buttons onto the board. When a button lands on a square, have a chat with the player about the person named on the square. In every chat ask the same questions:

- ▶ When, in everyday life, might this person say to you, "Drop everything, let's go"?
- ▶ What happens if you obey? If you disobey?

Think through some possible answers ahead of time. Be ready to supply hints to a hesitant child or to ask the group for help if, even with coaxing, a child can't think of anything to say. Simply try to make each chat interesting and fun for everyone present. Continue the game for as long as time allows. Conclude it by saying—of course—"Drop everything, let's go!" and leading the children to the worship area for the opening prayer.

### Collect

**Leader:** *Remind the children that obeying and serving Jesus sometimes means dropping everything and answering him the instant he calls. Then read, sing, or listen to the words of a song about serving the Lord.*

*Invite the children to be seated. Light the candle and begin the First Reading.*

### First Reading

**Leader:** In today's First Reading, God tells the prophet Elijah to go appoint a new prophet. Remember, in those days a prophet was a special servant of God who delivered God's messages to all the people. Notice how quickly the farmer, Elisha, answers God's call to service.

*Read 1 Kings 19:16b, 19-21. Then say, "The word of the Lord."*

**Children:** Thanks be to God.

### Responsorial Psalm

The psalm may be either sung or spoken. Before beginning the psalm, sing or announce the response.

**Leader:** You are my inheritance, O Lord.

**Children:** You are my inheritance, O Lord.

**Leader:** *Read Psalm 16:1-2ab and 5, 7-8, 11.*

### Second Reading

**Leader:** In today's Second Reading, Saint Paul reminds us that God made us free people. But we need to be careful with our freedom, for there are right ways to use it and there are wrong ways.

*Read Galatians 5:1, 13-15. Then say, "The word of the Lord."*

**Children:** Thanks be to God.

### Gospel Acclamation

Invite the children to stand. Sing the suggested Acclamation or another familiar one. If you choose not to sing the Acclamation, proceed to the proclamation of the Gospel.

## Proclaim the Gospel

**Leader:** In the Second Reading, we heard that we use our freedom the right way if we use it to serve God. Now in today's Gospel, we will learn that sometimes serving Jesus means giving up something we really, really like.

The Lord be with you.

**Children:** And with your Spirit.

**Leader:** A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

**Children:** † Glory to you, O Lord.

**Leader:** *Read Luke 9:57-62. Then say,* "The Gospel of the Lord."

**Children:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

## Homily

Base a talk on these ideas and questions:

1. What did Jesus tell the man who said he'd go anywhere with Jesus? (See v. 58.)
2. Here was Jesus' point.
  - ▶ Following him can mean living a little bit like a homeless person.
  - ▶ Instead of always staying in a comfortable homelike place, doing only the things you want to do, you have to go out and serve others, whether it feels good or not.
3. What did one man want to do first before following Jesus? (Go to his father's funeral.)
4. What did another man want to do first? (Take care of things at home.)
5. Did Jesus let the men do these things first? (No.)
6. Here was Jesus' point.
  - ▶ We should act immediately when Jesus gives us something to do.
  - ▶ Other things might seem more important, but they really aren't.
  - ▶ Sometimes Jesus gives us something to do through the voices of our parents, teachers, babysitters, and other grown-ups who care for us.
  - ▶ So think about that the next time one of them says to you, "Come on, let's go!"

## Profession of Faith

**Leader:** Please stand for the profession of faith and respond to each statement of faith with the words, "This I, too, believe." I believe that God is our loving Father.

**Children:** This I, too, believe.

**Leader:** I believe that God sent us Jesus to live, die, and rise from the dead for us.

**Children:** This I, too, believe.

**Leader:** I believe that God sent us the Holy Spirit to help us serve one another as Jesus has served us.

**Children:** This I, too, believe.

## Prayer of the Faithful

**Leader:** As servants of God and servants of one another, let us pray for all the needs of the Church and the world. Our response to each petition will be, "Your will be done, O Lord."

That the Church throughout the world will be a community of love, let us pray to the Lord.

**Children:** Your will be done, O Lord.

**Leader:** That leaders of all countries of the world will listen to the prophets of God, let us pray to the Lord.

**Children:** Your will be done, O Lord.

**Leader:** That our homes, neighborhoods, and schools will be filled with a spirit of love and cooperation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Children:** Your will be done, O Lord.

**Leader:** *Invite the children to pray their own petitions. Then pray:*

Let us pray. Loving God, help us to hear and answer your call every day of our lives, through Christ our Lord.

**Children:** Amen.

## Return to Assembly

The Liturgy of the Word ends with the Prayer of the Faithful. Prepare the children to return to the assembly in a respectful manner. If you haven't already done so, distribute the leaflets. Remind the children to take the leaflets home and share them with their families. Encourage them to watch this week's Gospel Reflection video and complete the Family Corner activities as a family.

July 3, 2022

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

# Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

## Today's Readings

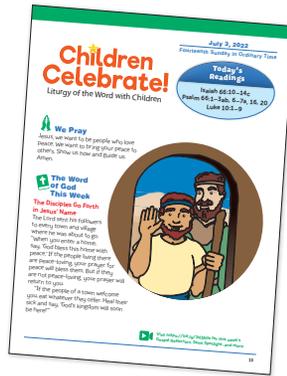
Isaiah 66:10–14c  
Psalm 66:1–3ab, 6–7a, 16, 20  
Luke 10:1–9

The Disciples Go Forth in Jesus' Name

## Preparation

### Children's Leaflet

Have on hand copies of the Children's Leaflet for this Sunday. Distribute copies either at the start of the session or before the children return to the assembly.



## Prepare with Prayer

Shout joyfully to God, all the earth; sing of his glorious name; give him glorious praise. Say to God: "How awesome your deeds! Before your great strength your enemies cringe. All the earth falls in worship before you; they sing of you, sing of your name!" (Psalm 66:2–4)

## Scripture Background

The reading from Isaiah describes the joy the Hebrews know they will feel when finally they return to their homeland after 70 years in Babylon. Once again their nation and their capital city will be like a mother to them, nourishing their faith with its rebuilt temple. The early Christians took this passage as a prophecy about the reign of God that the Messiah would inaugurate.

In the Gospel, Jesus sends out 72 disciples as a sign of his intention to reach, ultimately, the entire world with the good news about himself. As long as people welcome the disciples into their midst, he says, the 72 are to be gracious guests. They should observe rules of common courtesy and not seek any special favors, such as invitations to endless banquets all over town. In addition, they are to stay as long as the townspeople remain receptive to their teaching and healing in Jesus' name. After their work is completed in one place, they are to hurry to the next. They should not waste any precious time along the

## Prepare the Meeting Space

In the worship area, on a table draped with a green cloth, place:

- ▶ a Lectionary
- ▶ a battery-operated candle
- ▶ a green plant

## Suggested Music

See page 62 for more information.

**Gathering:** "This Little Light of Mine" (Seeds CD-1, Track #11) or "Yes, Lord, I Believe" (Promise & Good News CD-2, Track #26)

**Gospel Acclamation:** "Alleluia" (Promise & Good News CD-2, Track #24)

way. Finally, the disciples are not to worry about those who reject their message. Instead, they are to concentrate on the ones ready for it.

This is wise counsel for anyone who carries the word of the Lord to others day after day. When it is received well, count your blessings and give thanks to God.

When it is misunderstood or rejected, move on. Trust that God will make all things right in the end.

## Children's Connections

In 2003 a new book released by the great-grandson of Emily Post ultimately landed on *The New York Times* Bestseller List. These are among the tips Peter Post put in his *Essential Manners for Men*:

1. Always say "please" and "thank you."
2. Pick up after yourself.
3. At meals, chew with your mouth closed.
4. Don't spit in public.

These are great ideas, but shouldn't every boy and girl know these things before reaching adulthood? Kathy DiNardo, who reviewed the book for USA Today, commented, "Etiquette is about being considerate, respectful, and honest." Isn't that what Christianity is about, too?

Today's liturgy encourages children to be a blessing wherever they go. This certainly includes observing rules of common decency at home, in school, in church, and in the neighborhood, but, beyond that, it can include offering quick prayers to God in the course of daily life. Call it showing courtesy to God.

Remember when Catholic homes sometimes had small holy water fonts mounted near light switches? The purpose was to encourage people to seek God's blessing in all their comings and goings. Using holy water at home was not unlike the purpose of a prayer that many Catholics still say today while crossing their forehead, lips, and heart before the reading of the Gospel at Mass: "God, be in my mind, on my lips, and in my heart."

Help acquaint children with some of these meaningful customs, encourage them to use them, and perhaps encourage them to invent their own.

## More About ...

### The Catechism on Love of Neighbor

- "The duty of making oneself a neighbor to others and actively serving them becomes even more urgent when it involves the disadvantaged, in whatever area this may be." (#1932)
- "Love does no wrong to a neighbor." (#2196)
- "In the Sermon on the Mount, the Lord recalls the commandment, 'You shall not kill,' and adds to it the proscription of anger, hatred, and vengeance." (#2262)
- "Every human life, from the moment of conception until death, is sacred because the human person has been willed for its own sake in the image and likeness of the living and holy God." (#2319)
- "In the Sermon on the Mount, the Lord recalls the commandment, 'You shall not kill,' and adds to it the proscription of anger, hatred, and vengeance." (#2262)
- "Concern for the health of its citizens" require societies to guarantee every person's right to "food and clothing, housing, health care, basic education, employment, and social assistance." (#2288)

## The Children's Leaflet

The leaflet for this week helps the children learn about discipleship, through a prayer, a summary of the Gospel, and a creative activity.

If you distribute the leaflet now and time permits, you may wish to read with the children the summary of the Gospel in "The Word of God This Week" after you have read the Gospel. Point out the artwork and ask the children what is happening in the picture.

## Leaflet Activity

In this week's Gospel, Jesus tells his followers that they should bless the homes that they visit. In the leaflet, the children will design a household blessing sign.



## The Liturgy of the Word

### Gathering

After inviting the children to be seated, explain that today you are going to begin with a little fun with words. You will repeat a common expression, all but the last word, and the children must shout out the word that completes the expression. After each sentence is completed, ask the children what it means; then ask if it is a polite thing to say to anyone. Finally, suggest a polite way to say much the same thing. If there is no polite way, remind the children that "if you can't say something nice, then don't say anything at all."

Use expressions such as these:

### IMPOLITE

1. Go jump in a (lake).
2. Oh, shut your (mouth).
3. You must not be playing with a full (deck).
4. You need to get your head (examined).
5. You smell like a (pig).
6. Were you born in a (barn)?
7. Stop eating like a (horse)!
8. Are you out of your (mind)?
9. Do you have rocks in your (head)?
10. Can't you do anything (right)?

### POLITE

1. Please let me be alone for a while.
2. Please let me finish what I was saying.
3. I think you are misunderstanding something.
4. You and I just don't see things the same way.
5. I say this to you as a friend: maybe you need...
6. Please close the door behind you.
7. Don't eat so fast; you might get sick.
8. I find that really hard to believe. Can you explain a little more?
9. Let me try explaining this again.
10. May I help you with that?

### Collect

**Leader:** Lead the children through the blessing of forehead, lips, and heart while praying:

God, be on our minds, on our lips, and in our hearts, so that all our thoughts, words, and deeds will be expressions of love. This we ask through Christ our Lord.

**Children:** Amen.

*Invite the children to be seated. Light the candle and begin the First Reading.*

### First Reading

**Leader:** As you know, this week on July 4 is the birthday of the U.S.A. Most people have special feelings for their homeland, and the same was true of the Jews in ancient times. In today's First Reading, Isaiah tells his countrymen to rejoice and celebrate because God has blessed their land.

*Read Isaiah 66:10-14c. Then say, "The word of the Lord."*

**Children:** Thanks be to God.

### Responsorial Psalm

The psalm may be either sung or spoken. Before beginning the psalm, sing or announce the response.

**Leader:** Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

**Children:** Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

**Leader:** *Read Psalm 66:1-3ab, 6-7a, 16 and 20.*

### Gospel Acclamation

Invite the children to stand. Sing the suggested Acclamation or another familiar one. If you choose not to sing the Acclamation, proceed to the proclamation of the Gospel.

## Proclaim the Gospel

**Leader:** In the First Reading, we were told that our homeland is like a mother to us, just as God is like a mother to us. From God and country, we receive many blessings. Now in the Gospel, Jesus reminds us of another important truth: we need to give blessings, too.

The Lord be with you.

**Children:** And with your Spirit.

**Leader:** A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

**Children:** † Glory to you, O Lord.

**Leader:** *Read Luke 10:1-9. Then say, "The Gospel of the Lord."*

**Children:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

*Ask the children to be seated.*

## Homily

Base a talk on these ideas and questions:

1. Did you ever stop to think that every day, wherever you go, Jesus is sending you there to preach a Gospel of love?
2. Let's review for a moment some of Jesus' exact words from today's Gospel. Listen now to verse 4. (Read it aloud.)
  - ▶ What Jesus really means is that you should try to worry just a little less about the things you need—like money, shoes, and clothes—and worry just a little more about the things that others need.
  - ▶ Put others' needs ahead of your own sometimes, and don't get distracted when you are on your way to help them.
3. Now let's read verse 5.
  - ▶ Jesus means: pray a blessing and be a blessing everywhere you go.
  - ▶ Always enter rooms and houses asking God's blessing on the people you will see there.
4. And let's look at verse 8.
  - ▶ Jesus means: always be grateful for whatever people give you.
  - ▶ Don't act greedy, wanting something more—or disappointed, wanting something else.
  - ▶ And always remember to say thank you.
5. If you do these things wherever you go, then you will be a blessing to everyone you meet!

## Profession of Faith

**Leader:** Please stand for the profession of faith. Respond to each statement with the words, "This I, too, believe." I believe that God is our loving Father.

**Children:** This I, too, believe.

**Leader:** I believe that God sent us Jesus to live, die, and rise from the dead for us.

**Children:** This I, too, believe.

**Leader:** I believe that God sent us the Holy Spirit to help us serve one another as Jesus has served us.

**Children:** This I, too, believe.

## Prayer of the Faithful

**Leader:** As disciples of a loving God, let us pray for the needs of the Church and the world. Our response to each petition will be, "God bless their homes with peace."

For our Holy Father and all leaders of the Church throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord.

**Children:** God bless their homes with peace.

**Leader:** For the homes and families in all nations of the world, let us pray to the Lord.

**Children:** God bless their homes with peace.

**Leader:** For the homes and families of people in our own country, let us pray to the Lord.

**Children:** God bless their homes with peace.

**Leader:** *Invite the children to pray their own petitions. Then pray:*

Let us pray. Lord God, live in us and in all your people throughout the world. Then your love will shine out in all we think, say, and do. This we ask through Christ our Lord.

**Children:** Amen.

## Return to Assembly

The Liturgy of the Word ends with the Prayer of the Faithful. Prepare the children to return to the assembly in a respectful manner. If you haven't already done so, distribute the leaflets. Remind the children to take the leaflets home and share them with their families. Encourage them to watch this week's Gospel Reflection video and complete the Family Corner activities as a family.

July 10, 2022

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

# Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

## Today's Readings

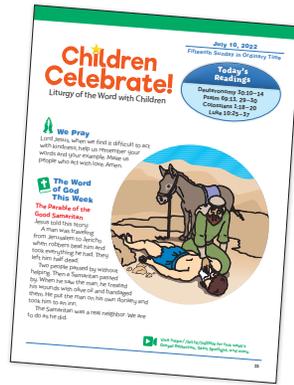
Deuteronomy 30:10–14  
Psalm 69:13, 29–30  
Colossians 1:18–20  
Luke 10:25–37

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

## Preparation

### Children's Leaflet

Have on hand copies of the Children's Leaflet for this Sunday. Distribute copies either at the start of the session or before the children return to the assembly.



## Prepare with Prayer

Then the just will be glad; they will rejoice before God; they will celebrate with great joy. Sing to God, praise his name; exalt the rider of the clouds. Rejoice before him whose name is the LORD. (Psalm 68:4-5)

## Scripture Background

In the First Reading, Moses offers his parting words to his people before his death. Their forty years in the desert have tested their faith and strengthened it. Moses worries that the life of comfort and plenty awaiting them in the Promised Land will make them forget all about God. That can't be allowed to happen, Moses warns.

The Second Reading is taken from Paul's letter to the Colossians. It discusses how Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross binds all people together in peace and grants them access to eternal life. The clear implication is that followers of Jesus need to take up their own crosses. They need to sacrifice themselves for the good of others.

In the Gospel, Jesus brings this message home with a parable about love of neighbor. The priest and the Levite bypass the beaten man because they are fearful of ritual contamination. Arriving in Jerusalem unclean (from having touched a dead or injured person along the way) will require a time-consuming cleansing ritual before they can lawfully participate in temple

## Prepare the Meeting Space

In the worship area, on a table draped with a green cloth, place:

- ▶ a Lectionary
- ▶ a battery-operated candle

On all the walls of the meeting room, tape pictures of various kinds of people in need. These can be from newspapers and magazines. Make sure they are posted at the children's eye level.

## Suggested Music

See page 64 for more information.

**Gathering:** "LOVE God" (Seeds CD-2, Track #21) or "The Great Commandment" (Promise & Good News CD-2, Track #18)

**Gospel Acclamation:** "Alleluia" (Promise & Good News CD-2, Track #24)

worship, and completing their religious duties had been the entire purpose of their long trip to Jerusalem.

So is this just a quaint story offering a window into an ancient world far different from our own today? In fact, it invites the sort of self-examination that never goes out of style. How often do we hurry past people in need, friend and stranger alike, simply because we feel too busy to stop? Jesus' parable is a timeless warning for any of us who would put a less-important duty, task, or responsibility above the pressing need of a neighbor.

## Children's Connections

In a five-part series of newspaper articles published more than a decade ago, Patricia Anstett discussed a new problem appearing among children. Increased involvement with electronic forms of amusement was not only affecting their bodies for the worse, but their minds and emotions as well. Children simply needed more physical activity than they were getting, especially those with motor skill delays, visual problems, attention deficit disorder, and similar afflictions.

What Anstett wrote about has been substantiated by a large body of research. Without enough physical activity and interpersonal relating in their lives, otherwise healthy children grow up with mental and emotional deficits. A lengthy article published in *Educational Psychology Review* in 2008 pulls together evidence that has been accumulating since the 1960s. You can find the article published online if you Google its title, "Exercise and Children's Intelligence, Cognition, and Academic Achievement."

Happily, today's liturgy provides two good opportunities to get children moving. The simple gestures accompanying the opening song involve right-to-left and left-to-right movements that are helpful in building needed neural connections between right and left brain hemispheres. Then during the Prayer of the Faithful, the children will be on their feet and moving around the room in a kind of solemn liturgical procession.

Don't underestimate the value of any small variation from the usual sitting-still-and-paying-attention routine that adult liturgies require.

## More About ...

### The Catechism on the Works of Mercy

- "In its various forms—material deprivation, unjust oppression, physical and psychological illness and death—human misery" always awakened compassion in Christ. ... "Those who are oppressed by poverty are the object of a preferential love on the part of the Church." (#2448)
- "The works of mercy are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities." (#2447)
- "Instructing, advising, consoling, comforting are spiritual works of mercy, as are forgiving and bearing wrongs patiently." (#2447)
- "The corporal works of mercy consist especially in feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and burying the dead." (#2447)
- "When her mother reproached her for caring for the poor and the sick at home, Saint Rose of Lima said to her: 'When we serve the poor and the sick, we serve Jesus. We must not fail to help our neighbors, because in them we serve Jesus.'" (#2449)

## The Children's Leaflet

The leaflet for this week helps the children learn about the Parable of the Good Samaritan.

You may distribute the leaflet now, for use during the session, or before the children return to the assembly. If you distribute the leaflet now and time permits, you may wish to read with the children the summary of the Gospel in "The Word of God This Week" after you have read the Gospel. Point out the artwork and ask the children what is happening in the picture.

## Leaflet Activity

The story of the Good Samaritan is an important lesson for all Christians. This week, the children will review the story with a picture puzzle. For your convenience, the solution is provided here.

**The Good Neighbor**

coins   donkey   robbers  
 man   inn   Jerusalem

A man was going from  **Jerusalem** to Jericho.  **robbers** beat him up.

A man from Samaria took care of his wounds and put him on his  **donkey**. He took him to an  **inn**. He gave the innkeeper two silver  **coins** to take care of the wounded man.

The  **man** from Samaria was a friend to his neighbor.

## The Liturgy of the Word

### Gathering

The words to an old song by Joe Wise easily lend themselves to a set of hand motions and some back-and-forth recitation between you and the children. While sitting in a circle, with all the children at arm's length from each other, ask them to imitate each gesture you make, then repeat after you the words that go with the gesture.

1. Begin by sitting with open hands in front of you, palms upward.
2. While raising both hands slightly, sing:  
**How beautiful.**
3. While raising right hand high and looking to the ceiling, sing: **on the mountaintops.**
4. While sweeping right hand downward toward feet, sing: **are the feet of those.**
5. While touching mouth gently with right hand, sing: **who bring your word.**
6. While returning right hand to original position, sing: **How beautiful.**
7. While sweeping left hand down and to the left, looking at the floor, sing: **on the city streets.**
8. While touching mouth gently with left hand, sing: **are the lips of those.**
9. While returning left hand to original position, sing: **who speak your peace.**

10. While raising both hands Heavenward:  
**How beautiful!**

Try adding verses that name specific local places: How beautiful in Good Shepherd Church, how beautiful on Thirteenth Street, etc.

### Collect

**Leader:** *Invite the children to bow their heads. Then pray:*

Loving God, to every place we go, in every place we stay, we are called to bring your word, to speak your peace. Help us be real friends to our neighbors, today and every day, through Christ our Lord.

**Children:** Amen.

*Invite the children to be seated. Light the candle and begin the First Reading.*

### First Reading

**Leader:** In today's First Reading, Moses reminds us to keep God's laws.

*Read Deuteronomy 30:10-14. Then say, "The word of the Lord."*

**Children:** Thanks be to God.

### Responsorial Psalm

The psalm may be sung or spoken. Before beginning the psalm, sing or announce the response.

**Leader:** Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live.

**Children:** Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live.

**Leader:** *Read Psalm 69:13, 29-30.*

### Second Reading

**Leader:** In today's Second Reading, Saint Paul tells us some important things about Jesus.

*Read Colossians 1:18-20. Then say, "The word of the Lord."*

**Children:** Thanks be to God.

### Gospel Acclamation

Invite the children to stand. Sing the suggested Acclamation or another familiar one. If you choose not to sing the Acclamation, proceed to the proclamation of the Gospel.

## Proclaim the Gospel

**Leader:** In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us a story to show us what it means to love our neighbor  
The Lord be with you.

**Children:** And with your Spirit.

**Leader:** A reading from the Gospel of Luke

**Children:** † Glory to you, O Lord.

**Leader:** Read Luke 10:25-37. Then say, "The Gospel of the Lord."

**Children:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

## Homily

Base a talk on these ideas:

1. There was something different about the third man who passed by the injured man on the road.
  - ▶ He took a good look at the injured man and sized up his situation.
  - ▶ Even though he didn't even know the man, he decided to help him out the same way he would have helped out a close friend.
2. The other two men did the opposite.
  - ▶ They pretended not even to see the injured man.
  - ▶ They looked away and walked right on by.
3. Wherever we go and whatever we do, we have the same choice when we see people in need.
  - ▶ We can pretend not to notice and walk on by.
  - ▶ Or we can take a good look at what is happening and try to think of some way to help.

## Profession of Faith

**Leader:** Please stand for the profession of faith and respond to each statement of faith with the words, "I believe in God." I believe in God the Creator, whom we are called to love with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind.

**Children:** I believe in God.

**Leader:** I believe in God the Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who showed us how to love our neighbors as ourselves.

**Children:** I believe in God.

**Leader:** I believe in God the Holy Spirit, Lord and giver of life, who unites us in love with God and with each other.

**Children:** I believe in God.



## Prayer of the Faithful

**Leader:** Today, remembering that Jesus asks us to be real friends to our neighbors in need, we will have a special "Prayer of the Faithful." Do you see the pictures hanging on the walls all around you? We will go from picture to picture and stop at each one to pray for the people we see in it. This will be our small way of acting on the message we heard in today's Gospel. We will really look at the people in need, and we will pray for them as hard as we usually pray for ourselves and our families. Please respond, "Hear us, O Lord," after each petition.

**Leader:** Invite the children to pray their own petitions. Then pray:

Let us pray. Loving God, you have asked us to love you completely and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Help us keep your law of love for the rest of this day and for all the days of our lives, through Christ our Lord.

**Children:** Amen.

## Return to Assembly

The Liturgy of the Word ends with the Prayer of the Faithful. Prepare the children to return to the assembly in a respectful manner. If you haven't already done so, distribute the leaflets. Remind the children to take the leaflets home and share them with their families. Encourage them to watch this week's Gospel Reflection video and complete the Family Corner activities as a family.

July 17, 2022

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

# Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

## Today's Readings

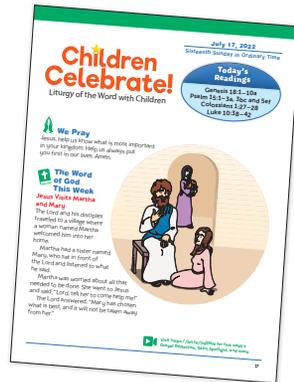
Genesis 18:1–10a  
Psalm 15:1–3a, 3bc and 5ef  
Colossians 1:27–28  
Luke 10:38–42

Jesus Visits Martha and Mary

## Preparation

### Children's Leaflet

Have on hand copies of the Children's Leaflet for this Sunday. Distribute copies either at the start of the session or before the children return to the assembly.



## Prepare with Prayer

I bless the LORD who counsels me; even at night my heart exhorts me. I keep the LORD always before me; with him at my right hand, I shall never be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad, my soul rejoices; my body also dwells secure. (Psalm 16:7–9)

## Scripture Background

Today's First Reading is a reminder that all good gifts come from the Lord—and they come on the Lord's timetable. Although Sarah's amused reaction to news of her belated conception is understandable, she is embarrassed to be caught laughing by her distinguished guests. She is not necessarily displaying a lack of faith. (See Genesis 18:10–15.) Earlier, Abraham, too, had laughed. (See Genesis 17:17.)

In today's Second Reading, Saint Paul gives the Colossians the eye-opening message "that Christ lives in you" (Colossians 1:27). Christ therefore binds them together in a common set of beliefs that rejects certain popular pagan practices, such as worshiping stars and angels. Bottom line: among God's people there is diversity of social, ethnic, and economic backgrounds, but not a diversity of core beliefs.

Today's Gospel can be interpreted in a few different ways. Some modern scholars note the importance of Jesus' defense of Mary's right to sit at his feet and listen to his teachings. Jesus' message is that while Martha's service as hostess and

## Prepare the Meeting Space

In the worship area, on a table draped with a green cloth, place:

- ▶ a Lectionary
- ▶ a battery-operated candle
- ▶ a green plant

Hide small gifts around the room, each gift different, each wrapped in a different kind or color of paper. (An assortment of holy cards or pretty post cards would work well as gifts.) In a basket, put a snippet of each kind of gift wrap paper you used.

## Suggested Music

See page 64 for more information.

**Gathering:** "God's Family" (Seeds CD-2, Track #16) or "You've Got to Love Them" (Promise & Good News CD-2, Track #20)

**Gospel Acclamation:** "Alleluia" (Promise & Good News CD-2, Track #24)

cook is a welcome and appreciated ministry, it is not the only type of ministry open to the women in his company of followers.

## Children's Connections

The topic of today's homily gives you a chance to address a growing problem among children, even very young children—contempt for their own bodies. Unfortunately, the same social forces that make women worry about their weight—and men, their bulk—adversely affect children, too. That's why girls as young as five develop eating disorders, why boys at ever earlier ages load up on steroids. People young and old measure themselves against unrealistic media-driven ideals of human perfection

The Eating Disorders Program of the Institute of Living is dedicated to increasing awareness of this problem and helping people find solutions. Some of their ideas for increasing one's own self-acceptance can be given a religious spin. In your homily, offer the children suggestions like the following.

- ▶ When thinking about your body, count your blessings, not your blemishes.
- ▶ Meditate on how wonderfully your body is made—see Psalm 139:13-16.
- ▶ Every morning when you wake up, thank God for the rest your body has enjoyed throughout the night.
- ▶ Every evening when you go to bed, thank God for all the good things that you were able to do with your healthy body during the day.
- ▶ Never say negative things about your body—"I'm too fat," "I'm too short," etc.—because it's saying bad things about something God made.
- ▶ Remember "that Christ lives in you" (Colossians 1:27), so take good care of your body—eat right, exercise daily.

## More About ...

### The Catechism on Respect for Health

- "If morality requires respect for the life of the body, it does not make it an absolute value. It rejects a neopagan notion that tends to promote the cult of the body, to sacrifice everything for its sake, to idolize physical perfection and success at sports." (#2289)
- "The virtue of temperance disposes us to avoid every kind of excess: the abuse of food, alcohol, tobacco, or medicine." (#2290)
- "Those incur grave guilt who, by drunkenness or a love of speed, endanger their own and others' safety on the road, at sea, or in the air." (#2290)
- "The use of drugs inflicts very grave damage on human health and life. Their use, except on strictly therapeutic grounds, is a grave offense." (#2291)
- "Clandestine production of and trafficking in drugs are scandalous practices. They constitute direct cooperation in evil, since they encourage people to practices gravely contrary to the moral law." (#2291)

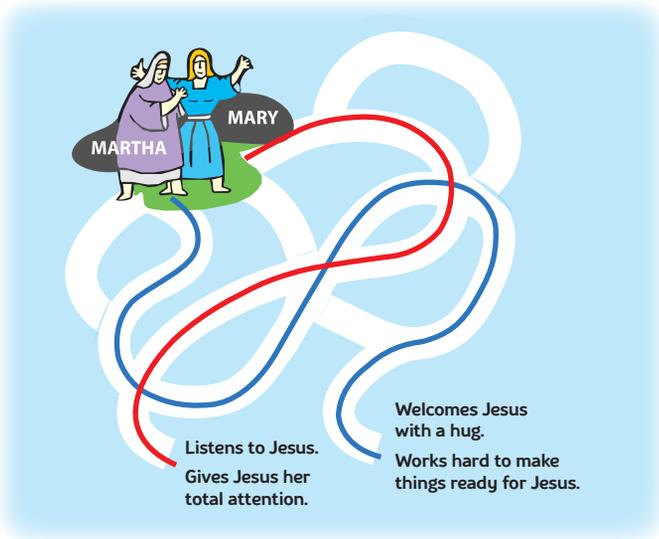
## The Children's Leaflet

The leaflet for this week helps the children learn about discipleship, through a prayer, a summary of the Gospel, and a creative activity.

If you distribute the leaflet now and time permits, you may wish to read with the children the summary of the Gospel in "The Word of God This Week" after you have read the Gospel. Point out the artwork and ask the children what is happening in the picture.

## Leaflet Activity

The story of Martha and Mary can be a little confusing to children. This week's leaflet will help them navigate the Gospel with a maze puzzle. For your convenience, the solution is provided here.



## The Liturgy of the Word

### Gathering

Explain to the children that today's liturgy will begin with a treasure hunt. Scattered throughout the room is one gift for each child. Which child gets which gift? The children will come forward and draw pieces of paper from the basket. They are to look for the gift wrapped in the matching paper. After they find it, they should return to the worship area with the gift, unopened, and sit quietly to await further instructions. Play Jack Miffleton's "And It Was Good," or a similar hymn about God's gifts, during the children's search. Be ready to assist any child who has difficulty finding the correct item.

When all the children are finished searching, tell them to open their gifts, then spend one minute quietly thinking about how they would complete this sentence: "Something I really like about my gift is...."

After the moment of silence, have the children take turns coming forward, displaying their gifts, and saying what they like about them.

### Collect

**Leader:** Invite the children to bow their heads. Then pray:

Loving God, during today's treasure hunt, the outside of each gift we found was unique—one of a kind—and so was the inside. When you made us, you blessed each one of us with unique gifts, inside and outside. For all our gifts, we praise you and thank you, through Christ our Lord.

**Children:** Amen.

*Light the candle for the First Reading.*

### First Reading

**Leader:** Today's First Reading is about an old man and woman who lived by themselves in a big desert. One day God surprised them with a special gift—something they had wanted for a long time. Listen.

*Read Genesis 18:1-10a.*

**Leader:** The word of the Lord.

**Children:** Thanks be to God.

### Responsorial Psalm

Before beginning the psalm, announce the response.

**Leader:** The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

**Children:** The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

**Leader:** *Read Psalm 15:1-3a, 3bc and 5ef.*

### Second Reading

**Leader:** In the First Reading, you heard of God's plan to bless Abraham and Sarah with a child. In today's Second Reading, Saint Paul reminds us that God blesses each and every one of us with something special. Let's listen to what it is.

*Read Colossians 1:27-28.*

**Leader:** The word of the Lord.

**Children:** Thanks be to God.

### Gospel Acclamation

Invite the children to stand. Sing the suggested Acclamation or another familiar one. If you choose not to sing the Gospel Acclamation, proceed to the proclamation of the Gospel.

## Proclaim the Gospel

**Leader:** In today's Gospel, we are going to hear about two sisters, Mary and Martha. They are very different from each other, yet Jesus loves them both the same.

The Lord be with you.

**Children:** And with your Spirit.

**Leader:** A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

**Children:** † Glory to you, O Lord.

**Leader:** *Read Luke 10:38-42. Then say,* "The Gospel of the Lord."

**Children:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

## Homily

Help the children see the differing gifts of Martha and Mary: Martha was a good cook, and Mary was a good listener. Jesus didn't like it when Martha seemed to say that her cooking was more important than Mary's listening, so Jesus defended Mary. He would have done the same for Martha if Mary had complained—because Jesus loved them both just the way they were.

We should never fight with each other over our different gifts. God made us different from each other on purpose. We should get to know and love the unique gifts we have from God, and we shouldn't wish we had someone else's gifts. This includes the gift of the kind of body God gave each one of us. Whether we are tall or short, fair or dark, curly-haired or straight-haired, we should be happy with ourselves just the way we are—because God is!

## Profession of Faith

**Leader:** Please stand now and answer each question with the words, "Yes, I do believe." Do you believe that God made each one of us special?

**Children:** Yes, I do believe.

**Leader:** Do you believe that Christ lives in each one of us?

**Children:** Yes, I do believe.

**Leader:** Do you believe that the Holy Spirit helps us find and use our gifts for the glory of God?

**Children:** Yes, I do believe.

## Prayer of the Faithful

**Leader:** Like Abraham and Sarah, who faithfully prayed for the child they always wanted, let us now go to God with our requests. The answer to each petition will be, "Hear us, O Lord."

For the leaders of the Church, that God will use their special gifts to bring more love and peace into the world, let us pray to the Lord.

**Children:** Hear us, O Lord.

**Leader:** For people who don't get along, that they will learn to accept each others' differences, let us pray to the Lord.

**Children:** Hear us, O Lord.

**Leader:** For each one of us, that we will truly believe that Christ lives in us, let us pray to the Lord.

**Children:** Hear us, O Lord.

**Leader:** *Invite the children to pray their own petitions. Then pray:*

Let us pray. Loving God, you made each of us special and unique. Help us to know and love ourselves just as we are, inside and out, through Christ our Lord.

**Children:** Amen.

## Return to Assembly

The Liturgy of the Word ends with the Prayer of the Faithful. Prepare the children to return to the assembly in a respectful manner. If you haven't already done so, distribute the leaflets. Remind the children to take the leaflets home and share them with their families. Encourage them to watch this week's Gospel Reflection video and complete the Family Corner activities as a family.

July 24, 2022

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

# Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

## Today's Readings

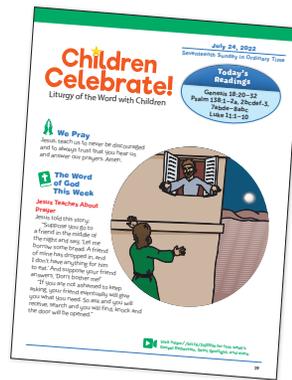
Genesis 18:20–32  
Psalm 138:1–2a, 2bcdef-3,  
7abde–8abc  
Luke 11:1–10

Jesus Teaches About Prayer

## Preparation

### Children's Leaflet

Have on hand copies of the Children's Leaflet for this Sunday. Distribute copies either at the start of the session or before the children return to the assembly.



## Prepare with Prayer

You formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother's womb. I praise you, because I am wonderfully made; wonderful are your works! My very self you know. My bones are not hidden from you, When I was being made in secret, fashioned in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw me unformed; in your book all are written down; my days were shaped, before one came to be. How precious to me are your designs, O God; how vast the sum of them! (Psalm 139:13-17)

## Scripture Background

The point of today's First Reading is not that it is possible to change God's mind with our prayers, but that keeping up a conversation with God is always helpful during troubling times. And sometimes, in some mysterious way, God uses the righteous people who pray and work among the unrighteous to save all people from destruction.

It is often said that prayers of petition don't change God; they change us. That is because going to God with our requests and laying bare our souls, repeatedly and persistently, eventually shows us how well our personal desires line up with God's will—which is always for our good. If our desires prove out of tune with God's plan, we learn to change our petitions, for our desires change as our level of enlightenment changes.

Praying in supplication is really a win-win proposition for us. If we receive exactly what we originally asked for, we have

## Prepare the Meeting Space

In the worship area, on a table draped with a green cloth, place:

- ▶ a Lectionary
- ▶ a battery-operated candle
- ▶ a green plant

Prepare for one of the three suggested ways to close today's homily. If you don't share a personal story of an answered prayer, get a copy of Ruth Shannon Odor's children's book *God Answers Prayers*, or download a copy of the lyrics to "He Will Answer Every Prayer."

## Suggested Music

See page 64 for more information.

**Gathering:** "God Loves Me" (Seeds CD-2, Track #15) or "The Beatitudes" (Promise & Good News CD-2, Track #17)

**Gospel Acclamation:** "Alleluia" (Promise & Good News CD-2, Track #24)

a powerful experience of God's presence in our lives. If we don't, but in time understand why we didn't, we again have a powerful experience of God's presence in our lives. In that sense, no prayer of ours ever goes unanswered, and what Jesus says in today's Gospel can be taken at face value: "Ask and you will receive, search and you will find, knock and the door will be opened for you" (Luke 11:9).

## Children's Connections

A jolly old white-haired farmer is often told that he would make an ideal department store Santa Claus. However, he always protested, saying, "I could never take a job like that. I just couldn't lie to little kids, telling them they're getting something for Christmas they might not get!"

That might be how we feel when trying to tell children that God answers prayer. We aren't deceiving them, however, as long as we stress the idea that God more nearly resembles their real, live parents and grandparents than the mythical Santa Claus.

As a Capuchin priest once explained to a class of fourth-graders, "A very small boy might really, really want a pocket knife for Christmas, but would his parents give him one if they knew he was too young to handle a knife—that he might hurt himself with one? Of course not. They tell him no, he can't have one. And it is the same between God and us. Sometimes, for our own good, God has to tell us no, we can't have something."

Writer and speaker Kim Butts notes that children "generally have no problem asking God for things in their own behalf." This gives caring adults the job of helping them make wise decisions about what to ask for. Mrs. Butts recommends that children be taught to ask themselves three questions before taking a request to God: (1) Will my request make me a better person? (2) Will it make me a better Christian? (3) Is it pleasing to God?

Kim and her husband, Dave, operate Harvest Prayer Retreat Center in rural Indiana. Their website ([harvestprayer.com](http://harvestprayer.com)) includes a related article on the prayer of petition. It is called "Holiness: Prerequisite for Answered Prayer."

## More About ...

### The Catechism on Prayers of Petition

- Prayer's "most usual form, because the most spontaneous, is petition: by prayer of petition we express awareness of our relationship with God." (#2629)
- "The first movement of the prayer of petition is asking forgiveness, like the tax collector in the parable: 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' It is a prerequisite for righteous and pure prayer." (#2631)
- "The first movement of the prayer of petition is *asking forgiveness*, like the tax collector in the parable: 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' It is a prerequisite for righteous and pure prayer." (#2631)
- "Christian petition is centered on the desire and search for the Kingdom to come, in keeping with the teaching of Christ." If we examine the Lord's Prayer closely, we find in it a hierarchy of petitions: "we pray first for the Kingdom, then for what is necessary to welcome it and cooperate with its coming." (#2632)

## The Children's Leaflet

The leaflet for this week helps the children learn about prayer, through a prayer, a summary of the Gospel, and a creative activity.

You may distribute the leaflet now, for use during the session, or before the children return to the assembly. If you distribute the leaflet now and time permits, you may wish to read with the children the summary of the Gospel in "The Word of God This Week" after you have read the Gospel. Point out the artwork and ask the children what is happening in the picture.

## Leaflet Activity

Jesus gives his followers useful advice in this week's Gospel story. This week, the children will complete a word search to help them remember the Gospel's important message. For your convenience, the solution is provided here.

SEARCH

ASK

DOOR

FIND

RECEIVE

KNOCK

B	S	R	T	L	B	D	M
T	D	E	N	E	P	O	N
N	S	C	A	K	V	O	H
B	T	E	I	R	N	R	L
L	F	I	N	D	C	T	A
J	S	V	B	P	D	H	S
S	T	E	K	N	O	C	K

*"So I tell you to a s k and you will r e c e i v e,  
s e a r c h and you will f i n d, k n o c k  
and the d o o r will be opened for you."*

## The Liturgy of the Word

### Gathering

Invite the children to be seated for a few questions. Ask them:

- ▶ Do you ever ask your mom or dad for anything?
- ▶ What was one of the things you asked for? Did you get it?
- ▶ Why do you ask your mom or dad for these things and not someone else?

Then explain that today Jesus tells us we should feel free to ask God for favors, too, because God likes to be asked—even if the answer sometimes has to be “no.”

### Collect

**Leader:** *Invite the children to bow their heads. Then pray:*

Lord, you tell us to ask if we want to receive. Lord, have mercy.

**Children:** Lord, have mercy.

**Leader:** Christ, you tell us to search if we want to find. Christ, have mercy.

**Children:** Christ, have mercy.

**Leader:** Lord, you tell us to knock if we want the door to be opened. Lord, have mercy.

**Children:** Lord, have mercy.

**Leader:** Loving God, thank you for listening to our every prayer. We promise to ask you only for those things that we know are pleasing to you, through Christ our Lord.

**Children:** Amen.

*Invite the children to be seated. Light the candle and begin the First Reading.*

### First Reading

**Leader:** Have you ever heard of the saying, “One rotten apple spoils the whole barrel”? What does it mean? In today's First Reading, we will listen to a conversation between God and Abraham that makes the opposite point: Sometimes just a few good people can help save many bad people.

*Read Genesis 18:20-32. Then say, “The word of the Lord.”*

**Children:** Thanks be to God.

### Responsorial Psalm

The psalm may be either sung or spoken. Before beginning, sing or announce the response.

**Leader:** Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.

**Children:** Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.

**Leader:** *Read Psalm 138:1-2a, 2bcdef-3, 7abde-8abc*

### Gospel Acclamation

Invite the children to stand. Sing the suggested Acclamation or another familiar one. If you choose not to sing the Gospel Acclamation, proceed to the proclamation of the Gospel.

### Proclaim the Gospel

**Leader:** During the First Reading, did you notice that Abraham wasn't afraid to keep asking God, over and over, for what he wanted? In today's Gospel, Jesus teaches us how to pray, and that includes asking God for whatever we honestly think is important.

The Lord be with you.

**Children:** And with your Spirit.

**Leader:** A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

**Children:** † Glory to you, O Lord.

**Leader:** Read Luke 11:1-10. Then say, “The Gospel of the Lord.”

**Children:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

## Homily

Tell the children that we should never be afraid of asking God for help. Would they be afraid to call their mom or dad for help in the middle of the night? Would their parents be afraid to call their parents? It’s the same between God and us. That’s why Jesus says, “Ask and you will receive, search and you will find, knock and the door will be opened for you” (Luke 11:9).

Explain that if sometimes God has to say no to our requests, we then need to ask for help in understanding and accepting God’s decision. As children of a kind and loving God, we need to keep the lines of communication always open between God and us. We should never give up on God. Conclude in one of these ways:

1. Read aloud the book *God Answers Prayers* by Ruth Shannon Odor. It illustrates various times in the Bible when people’s prayers were answered.
2. Tell a story from your own life about a time when, after much prayer, an answer came.
3. Read aloud the lyrics to the hymn, “He Will Answer Every Prayer,” explaining any words or phrases the children don’t recognize or understand.

## Profession of Faith

**Leader:** Please stand now and respond to each question with the words, “Yes, I do believe.”

Do you believe that God is a loving parent who wants only what is good for us?

**Children:** Yes, I do believe.

**Leader:** Do you believe that Christ is God’s son, sent to save us from the harm of sin and death?

**Children:** Yes, I do believe.

**Leader:** Do you believe that the Holy Spirit lives inside us and helps us to pray?

**Children:** Yes, I do believe.

## Prayer of the Faithful

**Leader:** Unafraid to ask our loving God for those things that can make us better persons, let us pray. The answer to each petition will be, “Hear us, O Lord.”

That God’s Church on earth will always honor God’s name, let us pray to the Lord.

**Children:** Hear us, O Lord.

**Leader:** That God’s kingdom will come to all nations of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.

**Children:** Hear us, O Lord.

**Leader:** That God will give our families each day the food that we need, let us pray to the Lord.

**Children:** Hear us, O Lord.

**Leader:** That God will forgive us our sins as we forgive the sins of others, let us pray to the Lord.

**Children:** Hear us, O Lord.

**Leader:** *Invite the children to add their own petitions.*

Let us pray. Loving God, through Jesus your Son, you have told us that we can always come to you whenever we need anything. You love us the way parents love their children, and you want to give us everything that is good. For this we praise you and thank you forever and ever!

**Children:** Amen.

## Return to Assembly

The Liturgy of the Word ends with the Prayer of the Faithful. Prepare the children to return to the assembly in a respectful manner. If you haven’t already done so, distribute the leaflets. Remind the children to take the leaflets home and share them with their families. Encourage them to watch this week’s Gospel Reflection video and complete the Family Corner activities as a family.

July 31, 2022

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

# Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

## Today's Readings

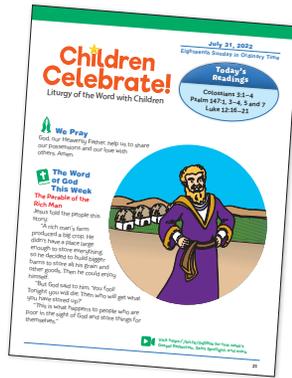
Colossians 3:1–4  
Psalm 147:1, 3–4, 5 and 7  
Luke 12:16–21

The Parable of the Rich Man

## Preparation

### Children's Leaflet

Have on hand copies of the Children's Leaflet for this Sunday. Distribute copies either at the start of the session or before the children return to the assembly.



## Prepare with Prayer

Praise him, all you his angels; give praise, all you his hosts. Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all shining stars. Praise him, highest heavens, you waters above the heavens. Let them all praise the LORD's name; for he commanded and they were created. Assigned them duties forever, gave them tasks that will never change. (Psalm 98:4–6)

## Scripture Background

Traditional biblical thought about what makes a person wise or foolish has strong practical implications. The wise person, quite simply, does right. The fool does wrong. Your wisdom (or lack of it) shows in your actions.

In the First Reading, Saint Paul lays out the rationale for the radical new lifestyle that is expected of first-century converts to Christianity. Because they have a new identity in Christ, they also have a responsibility to live lives that are quite different from those of their pagan neighbors. New standards of morality now apply to them.

Here, as elsewhere in the Gospels, Jesus warns that too much focus on the things of this world distracts people from paying due attention to the requirements of the next. All eyes should be trained on the kingdom of God and all hearts dedicated to preparing for it and welcoming it. It's a matter of putting one's priorities in order, for this world and the next are far more interconnected than many people realize.

## Prepare the Meeting Space

In the worship area, on a table draped with a green cloth, place:

- ▶ a lectionary
- ▶ a battery-operated candle
- ▶ a green plant

Have ready a sock puppet, a bone or a bone-shaped dog toy, a bowl of water, three empty tin cans (one small, two large), and 2 to 3 handfuls of straw, cellophane Easter grass, or freshly-picked green grass.

## Suggested Music

See page 64 for more information.

**Gathering:** "Follow Me" (Seeds CD-1, Track #10) or "The Great Commandment" (Promise & Good News CD-2, Track #18)

**Gospel Acclamation:** "Alleluia" (Promise & Good News CD-2, Track #14)

## Children's Connections

Few things interest children more than a good story, and today's liturgy includes two good stories. Both of them develop a similar theme. One is a fable of Aesop, used for the gathering activity, and the other is a parable of Jesus, found in today's Gospel. When relating each story to the children, use a single homemade sock puppet to represent the story's main character.

Because the sock puppet will be doing double duty—first representing a dog and, later, a rich man—keep its design simple. Make the puppet by putting your hand inside an old sock and shaping it around your four fingers and opposing thumb in such a way that you can make the sock move like the mouth of a talking head. Glue to the “head” two cotton balls for eyes and a line of yarn for the lips. Inside the mouth, glue a flap of felt or cloth that can represent a tongue.

To see how the finished puppet should look, go online at [papertoys.com/22-activities.htm](http://papertoys.com/22-activities.htm) and download the free book *22 Fun Activities for Kids*. The twelfth activity describes and illustrates how to make a sock puppet.

## The Children's Leaflet

The leaflet for this week helps the children learn about the importance of generosity, through a prayer, a summary of the Gospel, and a creative activity.

You may distribute the leaflet now, for use during the session, or before the children return to the assembly. If you distribute the leaflet now and time permits, you may wish to read with the children the summary of the Gospel in “The Word of God This Week” after you have read the Gospel. Point out the artwork and ask the children what is happening in the picture.

## More About ...

### The Catechism on Owning and Sharing

- “In the beginning God entrusted the earth and its resources to the common stewardship of mankind,” which means that God always intended for people to share with each other the world's bounty. (#2402)
- “The right to *private property*, acquired or received in a just way, does not do away with the original gift of the earth to the whole of mankind.” (#2403)
- “The ownership of any property makes its holder a steward of Providence, with the task of making it fruitful and communicating its benefits to others, first of all his family.” (#2404)
- Owners of material things like land and factories, as well as owners of abstract things like artistic talent, should “employ them in ways that will benefit the greatest number.” They should look out especially for those in need of hospitality, health care, and economic assistance. (#2405)
- “*Political authority* has the right and duty to regulate” private ownership “for the sake of the common good.” (#2406)

## Leaflet Activity

This week's Gospel explains the difference between storing treasure on earth and storing treasure in Heaven. The leaflet activity will help children to reflect on the ways their sharing actions today help them store treasure in Heaven. For your convenience, the activity is reproduced here.

I save my allowance and buy someone a gift.			
I help my mom at the grocery store.			
I read a book to my little sister.			
I share my candy with a friend.			
I visit with grandmother.			
I teach my brother to ride a bike.			
I donate to the food pantry.			
I show my friend how to skate.			

## The Liturgy of the Word

### Gathering

Using the sock puppet, tell Aesop's fable about the greedy dog who steals a bone. While running away with the bone in his mouth, the dog passes by a pond (bowl of water). Suddenly he stops because, while looking down in the water, he sees another dog with a bone. He says to himself, "Hey, that dog's bone is bigger than mine, no fair!" Then while opening his mouth to steal the other dog's bone, he loses his own bone—and discovers that the other dog was only his reflection in the water! Sadly he concludes, "Because I was selfish and I wanted the best of everything for myself, now I have nothing for myself. What a fool I am!"

### Collect

**Leader:** *Invite the children to bow their heads. Then pray:*

Loving God, in today's liturgy you give us a simple message: don't be fools! Fools think only about themselves and never about others. Help us, instead, to be people who are wise and loving, through Christ our Lord.

**Children:** Amen.

*Invite the children to be seated. Light the candle and begin the First Reading.*

### First Reading

**Leader:** The selfish dog lost the best thing he had, a nice juicy bone. In today's First Reading, Saint Paul reminds us that the best thing we have is Christ and his promise of everlasting life.

*Read Colossians 3:1-4. Then say, "The word of the Lord."*

**Children:** Thanks be to God.

### Responsorial Psalm

The psalm may be either sung or spoken. Before beginning, sing or announce the response.

**Leader:** Happy are all who long for the coming of the Lord.

**Children:** Happy are all who long for the coming of the Lord.

**Leader:** *Read Psalm 147:1, 3-4, 5 and 7.*

### Gospel Acclamation

Invite the children to stand. Sing the suggested Acclamation or another familiar one. If you choose not to sing the Gospel Acclamation, proceed to the proclamation of the Gospel.

### Proclaim the Gospel

**Leader:** In the First Reading, we were told that what we have in Heaven is far more important than anything we have on earth. But what is it, exactly, that we have in Heaven? Listen carefully to the story Jesus tells in today's Gospel.

The Lord be with you.

**Children:** And with your Spirit.

**Leader:** A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

**Children:** † Glory to you, O Lord.

**Leader:** *Read Luke 12:16-21. Then say, "The Gospel of the Lord."*

**Children:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

### Homily

Retell the Gospel using a few simple props drawn from a bag and placed on a tabletop.

First, put the small can on the table and explain that it is a silo. While describing the rich man's bountiful crop, spread out the straw or grass—a larger amount than can fit inside the small can.

With your sock puppet, show the rich man gathering together his crop into one big pile. After he sees that the can is too small to hold all of it, show him removing the small can and replacing it with the big can. Then show him storing all his grass in the big can and throwing himself a big party—eating, drinking, laughing, and singing. In the middle of a song, show him being interrupted by God’s voice repeating verse 20 of the Gospel. (Here, change your voice so that it sounds deep and authoritative.)

Then show the sock puppet going to his home in Heaven—over to a nearby ledge or shelf where you have placed the other large empty can. Show him discovering that his “silo in Heaven” is empty. Upon seeing this, he cries, “Boo-hoo, on earth I was a rich man, but here in Heaven I am the poorest of all men! What did I do wrong?”

Answer the rich man’s question by explaining that he should have given away some of his crop to his poor and starving neighbors on earth. Then tell the children to pretend, just for the moment, that they are poor and starving. Give each child a bit of grass from the man’s “silo on earth” and instruct him/her to go place it in the man’s “silo in Heaven.”

Explain that every time we give away some of our wealth to a neighbor here on earth, it is the same thing as storing up for ourselves wealth in Heaven. (Our earthly wealth can be money, time, talent, possessions, or, simply, our love.)

## Profession of Faith

**Leader:** Please stand for the profession of faith and respond to each statement with the words, “I believe in God.”

I believe in God, Creator and Lord, who rules with love over Heaven and earth.

**Children:** I believe in God.

**Leader:** I believe in Jesus Christ, Savior and Lord, who rules with love at God’s right hand.

**Children:** I believe in God.

**Leader:** I believe in the Holy Spirit, Lord and giver of life, who rules with love over our hearts.

**Children:** I believe in God.

## Prayer of the Faithful

**Leader:** As people of God called to share God’s love with all our neighbors, let us now pray for the needs of the Church and world. Our response to each petition will be, “Hear us, O Lord.”

For our Holy Father and all leaders of the Church, that they will be rich in faith and share it with others, let us pray to the Lord.

**Children:** Hear us, O Lord.

**Leader:** For the rich nations of the world, that they will share what they have with the poor, let us pray to the Lord.

**Children:** Hear us, O Lord.

**Leader:** For ourselves and our families, that we will build up for ourselves treasure in Heaven, let us pray to the Lord.

**Children:** Hear us, O Lord.

**Leader:** *Invite the children to pray their own petitions. Then pray:*

Let us pray. Loving God, thank you for telling us the story of the foolish rich man. Help us remember always to share our blessings with others, for we are fools if we keep everything we have to ourselves. With your help, may our good deeds praise you forever and ever.

**Children:** Amen.

## Return to Assembly

The Liturgy of the Word ends with the Prayer of the Faithful. Prepare the children to return to the assembly in a respectful manner. If you haven’t already done so, distribute the leaflets. Remind the children to take the leaflets home and share them with their families. Encourage them to watch this week’s Gospel Reflection video and complete the Family Corner activities as a family.

August 7, 2022

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

# Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

## Today's Readings

Hebrews 11:1–2, 8–12  
Psalm 143:1, 8, 10  
Luke 12:35–40

Jesus Says, "Be Ready"

## Preparation

### Children's Leaflet

Have on hand copies of the Children's Leaflet for this Sunday. Distribute copies either at the start of the session or before the children return to the assembly.



## Prepare with Prayer

The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in mercy. The LORD is good to all, compassionate toward all your works. All your works give you thanks, LORD and your faithful bless you. (Psalm 145:8-10)

## Scripture Background

Because the Letter to the Hebrews was written comparatively late in the first century, sometime between A.D. 60 and 95, it does not contain an assumption common to earlier Christian writings. It does not assume that Jesus' second coming is imminent.

It is fitting, then, that today's passage from Hebrews evokes the Old Testament figures of Abraham and Sarah. The elderly couple waited until they were near death to see the fulfillment of God's promise to send them a child. Their example is used to show Christians that they should be prepared to wait a long time for Christ's second coming. All in all, the Letter to the Hebrews provides evidence that the faith of the early believers matured over time. They grew to understand that the exact time of the second coming was unknowable and perhaps lay in the distant future. (It is ironic, and perhaps inevitable, that every so often a new generation of Christians must relearn this lesson.)

Like Hebrews, Luke's Gospel was composed after first-century Christians had come to realize their mistake in thinking that Christ was due back "any day now." By Luke's time,

## Prepare the Meeting Space

In the worship area, on a table draped with a green cloth, place:

- ▶ a Lectionary
- ▶ a battery-operated candle
- ▶ a green plant

Have ready a blindfold and some sheets of newspaper.

## Suggested Music

See page 64 for more information.

**Gathering:** "LOVE God" (Seeds CD-2, Track #21) or "Come and Follow Me" (Promise & Good News CD-2, Track #14)

**Gospel Acclamation:** "Alleluia" (Promise & Good News CD-2, Track #24)

however, an opposite problem had surfaced. Some Christians were growing careless in their observance of the duties of their faith, thinking that Christ's extended delay was giving them plenty of time to live for today and not worry about tomorrow. Thus today's Gospel passage was written, ironically, to remind Christians that Christ really *could* come "any day now."

## Children's Connections

"Thousands of students can't sit still and pay attention. They talk and interrupt too much. They can't follow directions. Some don't know how to interact with other children."

Sound familiar? This is how Detroit Free Press medical writer Patricia Anstett once described "Michigan's first electronic generation" of children. They were some of the nation's first students to enter the primary grades with strong computer skills but underdeveloped motor skills.

What educators began seeing, more and more, was the need for more bodily movement to be incorporated into young children's everyday routines. Busy parents who let TVs and computers babysit their children soon found that Dick and Jane did fine at punching buttons on a remote but could not use a scissors or skip a rope without hurting themselves. Budget-cutting schools that canceled recess soon discovered they were paying a price in reduced student achievement and poor student behavior. During a typical school day, researchers learned, a child's brain functions better if the body is allowed to take a "movement break" at least once every hour. Additionally, lessons themselves are retained better when they are accompanied by music, movement, and involvement of as many of the five senses as possible.

Because of these concerns, today's liturgy begins with a simple activity that will get the children moving around the room a bit. In addition, it will give them something of a visual preview of the parable in today's Gospel, which is about a master and his servants.

## More About ...

### The Catechism on the Second Coming

- "Since the Ascension God's plan has entered into its fulfillment. We are already at 'the last hour.'" (#670)
- "Though already present in his Church, Christ's reign is nevertheless yet to be fulfilled 'with power and great glory' by the king's return to earth." (#671)
- "That is why Christians pray, above all in the Eucharist, to hasten Christ's return by saying to him: *Marana tha!* 'Our Lord, come!'" (#671)
- "On Judgment Day at the end of the world, Christ will come in glory to achieve the definitive triumph of good over evil which, like the wheat and the tares, have grown up together in the course of history." (#681)
- "When he comes at the end of time to judge the living and the dead, the glorious Christ will reveal the secret disposition of hearts" and will reward all persons according to their works and their openness to God's grace. (#682)

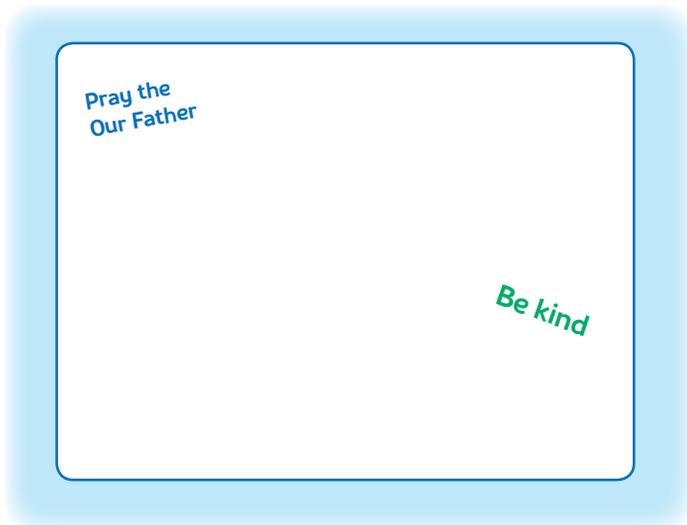
## The Children's Leaflet

The leaflet for this week helps the children learn about being ready to welcome Jesus, through a prayer, a summary of the Gospel, and a creative activity.

You may distribute the leaflet now, for use during the session, or before the children return to the assembly. If you distribute the leaflet now and time permits, you may wish to read with the children the summary of the Gospel in "The Word of God This Week" after you have read the Gospel. Point out the artwork and ask the children what is happening in the picture.

### Leaflet Activity

The Gospel story this week reminds us that we must always be ready for Jesus to return. In this week's leaflet activity, the children will imagine themselves preparing for Jesus.



## The Liturgy of the Word

### Gathering

Tell the children that today's Gospel is about a master and his servants. For that reason today's liturgy will begin with an activity called "Master and Servants." Gather all the children at one end of the room. On the other end lay out sheets of newspaper on the floor, half of them single sheets and half of them double sheets, enough to match the total number of children present, less one.

Ask an older child (one who can count) to be the master. The other children will be servants. Explain that while the master counts to 10, the servants will run to find themselves spots on the spread-out newspapers. Those who claim small single sheets must stand on them; they are the servants who stay awake while the master is away. Those who claim large double sheets must lie on them; they are the servants who fall asleep while the master is away—and they must hope they don't get caught!

Then blindfold the master, who counts from one to ten and shouts, "Ready or not, here I come!" Remaining blindfolded, the master then walks slowly across the room to find and touch one of the servants. The first person the master

touches is asked: "Tell me, servant, are you asleep or awake?" If the servant is lying down, he or she must answer, "Asleep, master," and that person is thrown out of the game. Play one or two more rounds; then explain that you will talk more about this game during the homily.

### Collect

**Leader:** *Invite the children to bow their heads.*

*Then pray:*

Loving God, in today's liturgy you tell us that we should be faithful servants, always doing what is right. Help us understand and live this message today and always, through Christ our Lord.

**Children:** Amen.

*Invite the children to be seated. Light the candle and begin the First Reading.*

### First Reading

**Leader:** At liturgy a couple of weeks ago, we talked about Abraham and Sarah. What do you remember about them? (Let the children answer. Help jog their memories if necessary.) Today Saint Paul talks about Abraham and Sarah as great examples of faith—and he also explains why they lived in a tent. Later I'll ask you about that.

*Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-12. Then say, "The word of the Lord."*

**Children:** Thanks be to God.

### Responsorial Psalm

The psalm may be either sung or spoken. Before beginning, sing or announce the response.

**Leader:** O Lord, hear my prayer.

**Children:** O Lord, hear my prayer.

**Leader:** *Read Psalm 143:1, 8, 10.*

### Gospel Acclamation

Invite the children to stand. Sing the suggested Acclamation or another familiar one. If you choose not to sing the Gospel Acclamation, proceed to the proclamation of the Gospel.

## Proclaim the Gospel

**Leader:** Why did Abraham live in a tent? (He was waiting for God's "eternal city.") The same is true for all of us. We are waiting for Jesus one day to come and take us to Heaven, where we will live with him forever.

The Lord be with you.

**Children:** And with your Spirit.

**Leader:** A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

**Children:** † Glory to you, O Lord.

**Leader:** *Read Luke 12:35-40. Then say, "The Gospel of the Lord."*

**Children:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

## Homily

Explain that in Jesus' day, a rich man away at a wedding feast would expect all his servants to be awake when he gets home. They would have to tend to his animal if he rode to the feast and help him get bathed and dressed for bed. Only a bad servant would fall asleep while waiting for the master to come home. That was why, in today's opening game, you lost if you were caught sleeping by the master.

We all are like the servants in that game and the servants in Jesus' parable. We should always be doing our duty, no matter what time of day or night it is, for we never know when Jesus might come to us, saying, "Ready or not, here I come!"

What does it mean to be "always on duty"? Discuss a typical child's day, from waking in the morning to going to bed at night, and identify appropriate positive behaviors for each time of day: praying when waking up, trying to be cheerful at breakfast, etc.

## Profession of Faith

**Leader:** Please stand now for the profession of faith. Your response to each statement will be, "I believe in God."

I believe in God, Creator and Lord, who planned and built for us a home in Heaven.

**Children:** I believe in God.

**Leader:** I believe in Jesus Christ, Savior and Lord, who died on the Cross, rose on the third day, and will come again to take us to Heaven.

**Children:** I believe in God.

**Leader:** I believe in God the Holy Spirit, Lord and giver of life, who lives in us and encourages us always to do our Christian duty.

**Children:** I believe in God.

## Prayer of the Faithful

**Leader:** As people called to be God's servants, let us humbly ask God for all that we need to be faithful and true. Our response to each petition will be, "Hear us, O Lord."

For our Holy Father and all leaders of the Church, that they will be faithful servants of the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

**Children:** Hear us, O Lord.

**Leader:** For all workers of the world, that their work will always be holy and pleasing to God, let us pray to the Lord.

**Children:** Hear us, O Lord.

**Leader:** For all the people of our parish, that we will find joy in doing our duty for God and for each other, let us pray to the Lord.

**Children:** Hear us, O Lord.

**Leader:** *Invite the children to pray their own petitions. Then pray:*

Let us pray. Loving God, today you have told us always to live each day as well as we can—as if it were our last. Help us be your good and faithful servants today and always, through Christ our Lord.

**Children:** Amen.

## Return to Assembly

The Liturgy of the Word ends with the Prayer of the Faithful. Prepare the children to return to the assembly in a respectful manner. If you haven't already done so, distribute the leaflets. Remind the children to take the leaflets home and share them with their families. Encourage them to watch this week's Gospel Reflection video and complete the Family Corner activities as a family.

August 14, 2022

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

# Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

## Today's Readings

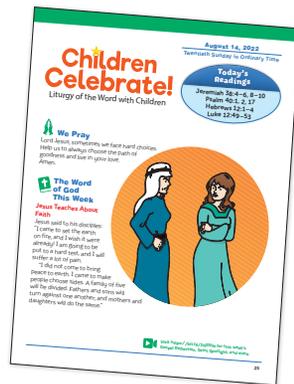
Jeremiah 38:4–6, 8–10  
Psalm 40:1, 2, 17  
Hebrews 12:1–4  
Luke 12:49–53

Jesus Teaches About Faith

## Preparation

### Children's Leaflet

Have on hand copies of the Children's Leaflet for this Sunday. Distribute copies either at the start of the session or before the children return to the assembly.



## Prepare with Prayer

So I said, "See; I come with an inscribed scroll written upon me. I delight to do your will, my God; your law is in my inner being!" When I sing of your righteousness in a great assembly, See, I do not restrain my lips; as you, LORD, know. I do not conceal your righteousness within my heart; I speak of your loyalty and your salvation. I do not hide your mercy or faithfulness from a great assembly. (Psalm 40:8-11)

## Scripture Background

Jeremiah's prophetic career spanned the reign of the last five kings of Judah, most of them lacking in religious piety and political insight. Today's reading occurs during the reign of the very last king. Although Jeremiah had counseled Zedekiah to accept Babylon's rule if he did not want even worse things to happen to the Jews, Zedekiah instead made a military alliance with Egypt that Babylon eventually overthrew. The end result was the destruction of Jerusalem and the infamous 70-year Babylonian captivity.

Today's Second Reading from Hebrews supplies a good example of the letter's overall theme. Put simply, it is that faith in God causes pain in the short run but joy in the long run. If we keep our eyes on Jesus and imitate his fortitude when times are rough, in the end we will share in his eternal glory.

In Luke's Gospel, Jesus is always calling his fellow Jews to a deeper understanding of their faith—an understanding so

## Prepare the Meeting Space

In the worship area, on a table draped with a green cloth, place:

- ▶ a Lectionary
- ▶ a battery-operated candle
- ▶ a crucifix or a contemporary portrait of Jesus that gives him a strong and brave appearance.

Prepare drawing paper and crayons, enough for every child to draw a picture.

## Suggested Music

See page 64 for more information.

**Gathering:** "I Am the Way" (Seeds CD-2, Track #19) or "The Baptism of Jesus" (Promise & Good News CD-2, Track #16)

**Gospel Acclamation:** "Alleluia" (Promise & Good News CD-2, Track #14)

deep that it looks like apostasy to some of them. Jesus proclaims in today's passage from Luke that he is destined to divide families. Basically, pro-Jesus and anti-Jesus factions will form as a result of his preaching. When this happens, it will also fulfill a prophecy made to Joseph and Mary when Jesus was still an infant: "This child of yours will cause many people in Israel to fall and others to stand" (Luke 2:34).

## Children's Connections

Child psychologists have long recognized the therapeutic value of getting children to draw pictures of things that worry them or events that have traumatized them. For that reason, today's liturgy begins with a short drawing exercise. You will be taking the "drawing cure" a step further by bringing it into the realm of faith and letting the children's pictures form the basis of the opening discussion and prayer in today's liturgy.

The day's homily will conclude with a true story of a time or times when prayer has helped you relax and deal with a fearful situation. Do you habitually pray the "Hail Mary" whenever you are in a plane while it takes off and lands (the two most dangerous parts of air travel)? Do you pray your way through dental examinations? What do you do during stormy weather besides take practical cautions?

Some adult Catholics who grew up in the tornado belt remember their mothers sprinkling the house with holy water and lighting blessed candles while saying prayers for protection whenever a storm blew in—then herding the family to a safe place if the radio or TV warned of a tornado sighting in the area. These are the types of experiences from your own life that you might want to share with the children.

## More About ...

### The Catechism on the Virtue of Fortitude

- Those who are virtuous tend toward the good with all their sensory and spiritual powers; they pursue the good and choose it in concrete actions. (#1803)
- As Saint Gregory of Nyssa has written, "The goal of a virtuous life is to become like God." (#1803)
- Moral virtues "make possible ease, self-mastery, and joy in leading a morally good life." (#1804)
- "Fortitude is the moral virtue that ensures firmness in difficulties and constancy in the pursuit of the good." (#1808)
- "The virtue of fortitude enables one to conquer fear, even fear of death, and to face trials and persecutions." (#1808)
- People acquire virtues by studying them, practicing them until they become habitual, refusing to become discouraged at failure, and relying on God's help. (#1810)
- Maintaining moral balance is not easy. It requires frequenting the sacraments and cooperating with the inspirations of the Holy Spirit. (#1811)

## The Children's Leaflet

The leaflet for this week helps the children learn Jesus' teaching about faith, a summary of the Gospel, and a creative activity.

You may distribute the leaflet now, for use during the session, or before the children return to the assembly. If you distribute the leaflet now and time permits, you may wish to read with the children the summary of the Gospel in "The Word of God This Week" after you have read the Gospel. Point out the artwork and ask the children what is happening in the picture.

### Leaflet Activity

The world can be a scary place, and this week's Gospel reminds us of that fact. In this week's leaflet, children will complete an activity to serve as a reminder that Jesus is always with them. For your convenience, the solution is provided here.

strong Jesus and am ~~With~~ I brave

W i t h J e s u s ,  
I a m b r a v e  
a n d s t r o n g .



## The Liturgy of the Word

### Gathering

In the gathering space or in an adjacent area, have the children draw pictures of just one thing that makes them afraid—a storm, the dentist's office, a big dog, etc. When all are finished, have each child stand up and show his or her picture to the group, then share what it is he or she is afraid of. Conclude the activity by telling the children the message of today's liturgy—that faith in God can make us strong and brave whenever we are afraid.

### Collect

**Leader:** *Invite the children to bow their heads for prayer.*

Loving God, through your Son, Jesus, and through all the saints, you show us how to be brave and strong whenever we feel afraid—whenever we meet up with (name the things the children said they fear). Help us put our trust in you at all times, through Christ our Lord.

**Children:** Amen.

*Invite the children to be seated. Light the candle and begin the First Reading.*

### First Reading

**Leader:** In today's First Reading the prophet Jeremiah tells about a scary experience he had when some men turned against him for delivering God's message to them. God's message was to make peace with an enemy, but they wanted war. *Read Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10. Then say, "The word of the Lord."*

**Children:** Thanks be to God.

### Responsorial Psalm

The psalm may be either sung or spoken. Before beginning, sing or announce the response.

**Leader:** Lord, come to my aid!

**Children:** Lord, come to my aid!

**Leader:** *Read Psalm 40:1, 2, 17.*

### Second Reading

**Leader:** In today's Second Reading, the writer tells of a battle that God does want everyone to fight, and that is the battle against sin. Sometimes saying no to sin makes other people angry with us, but we should not be afraid of their anger. We should think only about Jesus on the Cross, showing us how to be brave and strong.

*Read Hebrews 12:1-4. Then say, "The word of the Lord."*

### Gospel Acclamation

Invite the children to stand. Sing the suggested Acclamation or another familiar one. If you choose not to sing the Gospel Acclamation, proceed to the proclamation of the Gospel.

### Proclaim the Gospel

**Leader:** When Jesus came to earth, he knew some people would get upset with him and his message. In today's Gospel, Jesus tries to explain this to his friends.

The Lord be with you.

**Children:** And with your Spirit.

**Leader:** A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

**Children:** † Glory to you, O Lord.

**Leader:** *Read Luke 12:49-53. Then say, "The Gospel of the Lord."*

**Children:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

## Homily

Base a talk on the following ideas and questions.

- ▶ Sometimes life is scary and dangerous.
- ▶ Nevertheless, we are never alone during those times. Jesus is with us, and we will feel better if we ask him for help.
- ▶ In today's responsorial psalm, we learned a good prayer to use in scary times. What is it? ("Lord, come to my aid.")
- ▶ Try saying that over and over the next time you are in a scary situation. And picture yourself being brave and strong, like Jesus.

End with a true story about a time when praying in a time of danger helped you or helped someone you know.



## Profession of Faith

**Leader:** Please stand for the profession of faith. Your response to each question will be, "I do believe."

God the Father has loved us into life and will save us from all harm to our eternal souls. Do you believe this?

**Children:** I do believe.

**Leader:** God the Son came to earth to save us from sin and to show us how to be brave and strong in our faith. Do you believe this?

**Children:** I do believe.

**Leader:** God the Holy Spirit lives in us and gives us the gifts of hope and courage. Do you believe this?

**Children:** I do believe.

## Prayer of the Faithful

**Leader:** As children of a loving God, let us pray for the needs of the Church and world. To each petition, please respond, "Lord, come to our aid. That our Holy Father will be brave and strong in delivering God's message, let us pray to the Lord."

**Children:** Lord, come to our aid.

**Leader:** That world leaders will be brave and strong in protecting the world's weakest and neediest people, let us pray to the Lord.

**Children:** Lord, come to our aid.

**Leader:** That we will be brave and strong in our battle against evil and sin, let us pray to the Lord.

**Children:** Lord, come to our aid.

**Leader:** Invite the children to pray their own petitions. Then pray:

Let us pray. Loving God, you are always ready to come to our aid. May we always be ready to call upon you when we need your help. This we ask through Christ our Lord.

**Children:** Amen.

## Return to Assembly

The Liturgy of the Word ends with the Prayer of the Faithful. Prepare the children to return to the assembly in a respectful manner. If you haven't already done so, distribute the leaflets. Remind the children to take the leaflets home and share them with their families. Encourage them to watch this week's Gospel Reflection video and complete the Family Corner activities as a family.

# Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

## Today's Readings

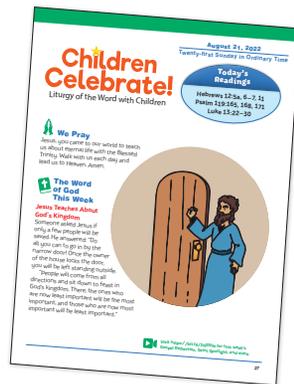
Hebrews 12:5a, 6–7, 11  
Psalm 119:165, 168, 171  
Luke 13:22–30

Jesus Teaches About God's Kingdom

## Preparation

### Children's Leaflet

Have on hand copies of the Children's Leaflet for this Sunday. Distribute copies either at the start of the session or before the children return to the assembly.



## Prepare with Prayer

How can the young keep his way without fault? Only by observing your words. With all my heart I seek you; do not let me stray from your commandments. In my heart I treasure your promise, that I may not sin against you. Blessed are you, O LORD; teach me your statutes. With my lips I recite all the judgments you have spoken. I find joy in the way of your testimonies more than in all riches. (Psalm 119:9–14)

## Scripture Background

The entire Letter to the Hebrews combines a philosophical explanation of Christ's mission with practical advice for growing in the Christian life. In today's excerpt, the emphasis is on the latter. Christians should not become discouraged when they stumble on their way to holiness—or discover they aren't as perfect as they thought they were. Instead, they should humbly see their spiritual and moral failures as opportunities for growth. God will always stand by them as a wise and just, but ever merciful, parent.

In today's Gospel, Jesus answers a question about how many people will be saved. One senses that perhaps the questioner wants to calculate his or her own personal odds of attaining salvation. In any case, Jesus refuses to give a mathematical answer, which can be instructive for certain modern sects that claim to know the exact number of the saved.

## Prepare the Meeting Space

If possible, hold today's liturgy around a table with a green cloth, as if seated for lunch. In the center of the table, place:

- ▶ a Lectionary
- ▶ a battery-operated candle

For the gathering activity, have ready white paper plates (one for each child), small pools of glue on pieces of paper towel (one for every 2 or 3 children), one pencil, and a large supply of small objects that children can glue to the plates: buttons, macaroni, beans, pebbles, cotton balls, etc. Also have ready a sample plate that you have completed ahead of time, one decorated with your own first initial.

## Suggested Music

See page 64 for more information.

**Gathering:** "Follow Me (Seeds CD-1, Track #10) or "Yes, Lord, I Believe" (Promise & Good News CD-2, Track #26)

**Gospel Acclamation:** "Alleluia" (Promise & Good News CD-2, Track #14)

Instead of giving a number, Jesus uses the occasion to warn believers not to get into playing any mathematical games with the question of salvation. They should simply do all they can to make themselves pleasing to God. They should never allow themselves to grow self-satisfied in the spiritual life and to think they have done “enough” to attain perfection in the sight of God. Indeed, on the last day, proud Jews well versed in the Law and the Prophets will be in for a surprise when God treats them as strangers, while welcoming into Heaven humble foreigners who never even heard of Abraham, Isaac, or Jacob!

## Children’s Connections

Teaching children to accept correction—one important way for them to learn humility—can be a daunting task for parents and teachers alike. During a broadcast of CBS’ *Saturday Early Show* on January 3, 2004, a mother asked family counselor Mike Riera for advice on how to handle her unruly 4-year-old. Every time the little girl was told to do one thing, such as to “quiet down,” she would do the exact opposite. “Does my daughter have attention deficit disorder?” the worried parent asked.

Riera explained that only a team of experts can evaluate a child for ADD, but he added that obedience is a hard thing for any 4-year-old to learn. He said the first thing we need to understand is that a 4-year-old’s brain is quite different from an adult’s, far less developed. Simply hearing the word, “No!” spoken firmly by an agitated parent can make a young child “freeze up,” causing mindless repetition or even intensification of the undesirable behavior.

He recommended taking these steps when a child is caught doing something wrong:

1. In one brief simple sentence, say, “It is bad to [name the behavior].”
2. Take the child away from the scene of the disturbance—to the next room, out of the store to the parking lot, etc.
3. In no more than two to three simple sentences, explain exactly why the behavior is bad.
4. Make sure the child experiences consequences for the misdeed—being required to apologize to the offended party, taking a time-out, etc.

## More About ...

### The Catechism on the Church’s Teaching Authority

- Canon law says “to the Church belongs the right always and everywhere to announce moral principles, including those pertaining to the social order” and to private life. (#2032)
- “Alongside the Creed and the Our Father, the basis for this catechesis has traditionally been the Decalogue,” which sets out principles valid for all of humanity. (#2033)
- “The ordinary and universal Magisterium” of the Church consists of “the Pope and the bishops in communion with him.” (#2034)
- “In the work of teaching and applying Christian morality, the Church needs the dedication of pastors, the knowledge of theologians, and the contribution of all Christians and men of good will.” (#2038)
- “At the same time the conscience of each person” should avoid individualistic interpretations and keep in view the common good, natural law, revealed law, and Church law. (#2039)

## The Children’s Leaflet

The leaflet for this week helps the children learn about the Kingdom of God, through a prayer, a summary of the Gospel, and a creative activity.

You may distribute the leaflet now, for use during the session, or before the children return to the assembly. If you distribute the leaflet now and time permits, you may wish to read with the children the summary of the Gospel in “The Word of God This Week” after you have read the Gospel. Point out the artwork and ask the children what is happening in the picture.

### Leaflet Activity

The idea that the last will be first in God's kingdom is fundamental to our faith. This week's leaflet reinforces the Gospel message with an unscrambling activity. For your convenience, the solution is provided here.

OMTS

ESATL

The ones who are l e a s t important  
will be the m o s t important.

## The Liturgy of the Word

### Gathering

After the children are seated in the gathering area, tell them that today's Scripture readings will tell us what we need to do to be given seats at the heavenly banquet. Therefore, today's liturgy will begin with an art project in which we decorate paper plates with our first initials, representing our wish that one day each of us will sit at the heavenly banquet.

Show the sample plate that you already have completed. One by one, address each child by name, then draw that child's first initial on a plate. Give the plate to the child and let him or her begin gluing objects along the penciled line. Be ready to help the younger children with their projects.

### Collect

**Leader:** *Invite the children to bow their heads. Then pray:*

Loving God, here we sit at the table of your word, ready to hear the Scripture readings of today's Mass. Bless us, O Lord, and these your gifts, which we are about to receive, through the bounty of Christ our Lord.

**Children:** Amen.

*Invite the children to be seated. Light the candle and begin the First Reading.*

### First Reading

**Leader:** How do you feel when a parent or teacher corrects you for something you've done wrong? In today's First Reading, the writer explains to us why we should be glad when we are corrected.

*Read Hebrews 12:5a, 6-7, 11. Then say, "The word of the Lord."*

**Children:** Thanks be to God.

### Responsorial Psalm

The psalm may be either sung or spoken. Before beginning, sing or announce the response.

**Leader:** O Lord, great peace have they who love your law.

**Children:** O Lord, great peace have they who love your law.

**Leader:** *Read Psalm 119:165, 168, 171.*

### Gospel Acclamation

Invite the children to stand. Sing the suggested Acclamation or another familiar one. If you choose not to sing the Gospel Acclamation, proceed to the proclamation of the Gospel.

### Proclaim the Gospel

**Leader:** Now that you've heard the First Reading, can you tell me why it is good to be corrected? In today's Gospel, Jesus explains who will have seats at the heavenly banquet table, and guess what? They won't be the people who think they are perfect and always do everything right and never need to be corrected. Listen.

The Lord be with you.

**Children:** And with your Spirit.

**Leader:** A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

**Children:** † Glory to you, O Lord.

**Leader:** *Read Luke 13:22-30. Then say, "The Gospel of the Lord."*

**Children:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

## Homily

1. Present a short talk about humility, including these points.
  - ▶ It is important to have a humble heart if we want to win favor with God.
  - ▶ Humble people know that they are not any more important than anyone else, so they don't mind when other people get special favors or enjoy "good luck."
  - ▶ Humble people know they are not perfect.
  - ▶ They accept correction from God, parents and elders, the voice of their own conscience.
  - ▶ They always look for ways to do better and to be better.
2. If there's time, conclude by having children guess whether each of these statements represent things a humble person would think or say:
  - ▶ "This place is mine; I got here first!"
  - ▶ "Here, you take the bigger piece; I'll take the other one."
  - ▶ "I don't know why Mom is making such a big deal over nothing!"
  - ▶ "I hate people who always get in my way!"

## Profession of Faith

**Leader:** Please stand for the profession of faith. The response to each question will be, "Yes, I do believe."

Do you believe that God is your loving parent who corrects you when needed?

**Children:** Yes, I do believe.

**Leader:** Do you believe that Jesus is your savior and brother, who shows you how to be humble and good?

**Children:** Yes, I do believe.

**Leader:** Do you believe that the Holy Spirit lives inside you and teaches you obedience?

**Children:** Yes, I do believe.

## Prayer of the Faithful

**Leader:** Now let us pray that all God's children will learn to obey God and do right, so that they might live in peace. Our response to each petition will be, "Your kingdom come, O Lord."



That leaders of the Church will serve the people of God with humility and love, let us pray to the Lord.

**Children:** Your kingdom come, O Lord.

**Leader:** That leaders of nations will try to know and do God's will when making decisions, let us pray to the Lord.

**Children:** Your kingdom come, O Lord.

**Leader:** That all of us here today will one day sit at the heavenly banquet, let us pray to the Lord.

**Children:** Your kingdom come, O Lord.

**Leader:** *Invite the children to pray their own petitions. Then pray:*

Let us pray. Loving God, through your Son, Jesus, you taught us the importance of humility. May his example inspire us always to seek what is right and to do what is good. This we ask through the same Christ our Lord.

**Children:** Amen.

## Return to Assembly

The Liturgy of the Word ends with the Prayer of the Faithful. Prepare the children to return to the assembly in a respectful manner. If you haven't already done so, distribute the leaflets. Remind the children to take the leaflets home and share them with their families. Encourage them to watch this week's Gospel Reflection video and complete the Family Corner activities as a family.

# Music

For planning music, it is best to ask the advice of the parish music minister. If the selections planned for the main assembly for any given weekend are also appropriate for children, use the same music. Because that may not always be possible, *Children Celebrate!* gives suggestions for each Sunday.

Most of the music is available from Pflaum Publishing Group on two sets of CDs. The CD sets are part of the *Pflaum Gospel Weeklies* music collection correlated to the seasons of the Liturgical Year, featuring songs by well-known Catholic composer John Burland and others.

To purchase music to download or to order the CD sets, visit [gospelweeklies.com/lyrics](http://gospelweeklies.com/lyrics).

For your convenience here, the song titles are color coded to the names of the two CD sets used in *Children Celebrate!*—**purple for Seeds** and **red for Promise**.

## Title/Composer

**Come and Follow Me**  
(Burland/Paradise)

**Come Do This in Memory of Me**  
(Burland)

**Come Gather**  
(Burland)

**Come O Holy Spirit**  
(Burland)

**Follow Me**  
(Vagle)

**Gather Together**  
(Burland)

**God's Family**  
(Burland)

**God Loves Me**  
(Burland)

**He Lives**  
(Burland/Paradise)

**I Am the Way**  
(Burland/Paradise)

**LOVE God**  
(Burland)

**The Baptism of Jesus**  
(Burland/Paradise)

**The Beatitudes**  
(Burland/Paradise)

**The Great Commandment**  
(Burland/Paradise)

**The Spirit Song**  
(Vagle)

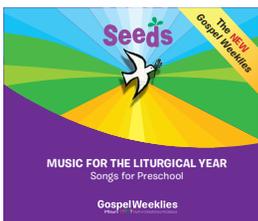
**The Trinity**  
(Burland)

**The Trinity**  
(Burland)

**This Little Light of Mine**  
(Burland)

**Yes, Lord, I Believe**  
(Burland)

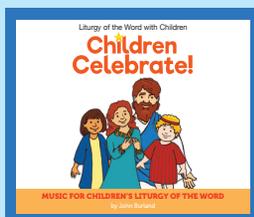
**You've Got to Love Them**  
(Burland/Paradise)



Seeds 2-CD Set (PGW-5201)

Promise/Good News 2-CD Set (PGW-5202)

**TO ORDER, CALL 800-543-4383  
OR VISIT PFLAUM.COM**



## **NEW!** Children Celebrate! Children's Liturgy of the Word MP3 Album

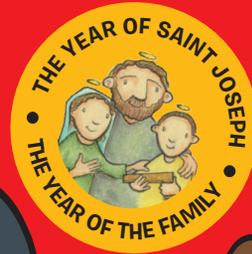
With joyful melodies, call-and-response segments, and child-friendly lyrics, John Burland's inviting liturgical pieces are perfect for Children's Liturgy of the Word programs. For example, "Go Now and Listen to God's Word" can be sung as children are dismissed from the assembly, and "Yes, Lord, I Believe" is a jubilant option for singing the Creed, helping little ones to profess their faith.

**Go to: [bit.ly/CLOWmusic](http://bit.ly/CLOWmusic) to order.**

Liturgy of the Word with Children

# Children Celebrate!

New! Weekly Gospel  
Reflection Videos



**SUMMER 2022 (YEAR C)**

**MAY 29, 2022** Ascension/Seventh Sunday of Easter  
through

**AUGUST 21, 2022** Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time



## The Readings

The readings cited are the readings that the children heard that Sunday. These readings may differ at times from those heard by the adults. They may be shorter, there may be only one reading, plus the Psalm and the Gospel, or the First Readings may be different altogether from those the adults hear. The Gospel most always is the same, but may be the shorter form. The *Directory for Masses with Children* allows for these differences to accommodate the children's level of comprehension.



## Activities

The last three pages of this book offer bonus activities intended for use by children who are pre-readers or beginning readers. They can be used at any time during these summer months.



## Weekly Gospel Reflection Videos (New)!

Available to subscribers of *Children Celebrate!* Visit <https://bit.ly/3sjSNfe> for weekly Gospel Reflection videos. These videos can be used within your Children's Liturgy of the Word program or shared with parents and families to view at home.

Typesetting by Cassandra Waung and Michelle Gerstel  
Edited by Blue Willow Publishing Works  
Cover design by Lorena Jimenez and Cassandra Waung  
Illustrations by Cathy Bruce

All Gospel summaries are based on the *Contemporary English Version, Bible for Today's Family: New Testament* (© 1991, American Bible Society). This is the translation used in the *Lectionary for Masses with Children* (© 1992, United States Catholic Conference), which is approved for use in all dioceses of the United States.



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May 29, 2022

The Ascension of the Lord *or*  
Seventh Sunday of Easter

# Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

## Today's Readings

### Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1:8–11; Psalm 47:1–2, 5–6, 7–8  
Ephesians 1:17–21; Luke 24:50–53

### Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 7:55–60; Psalm 97:1, 6, 9  
John 17:20–21



## We Pray

Lord Jesus, we celebrate your Resurrection and your Ascension. Bless us with your love and help us live as your people. Amen.



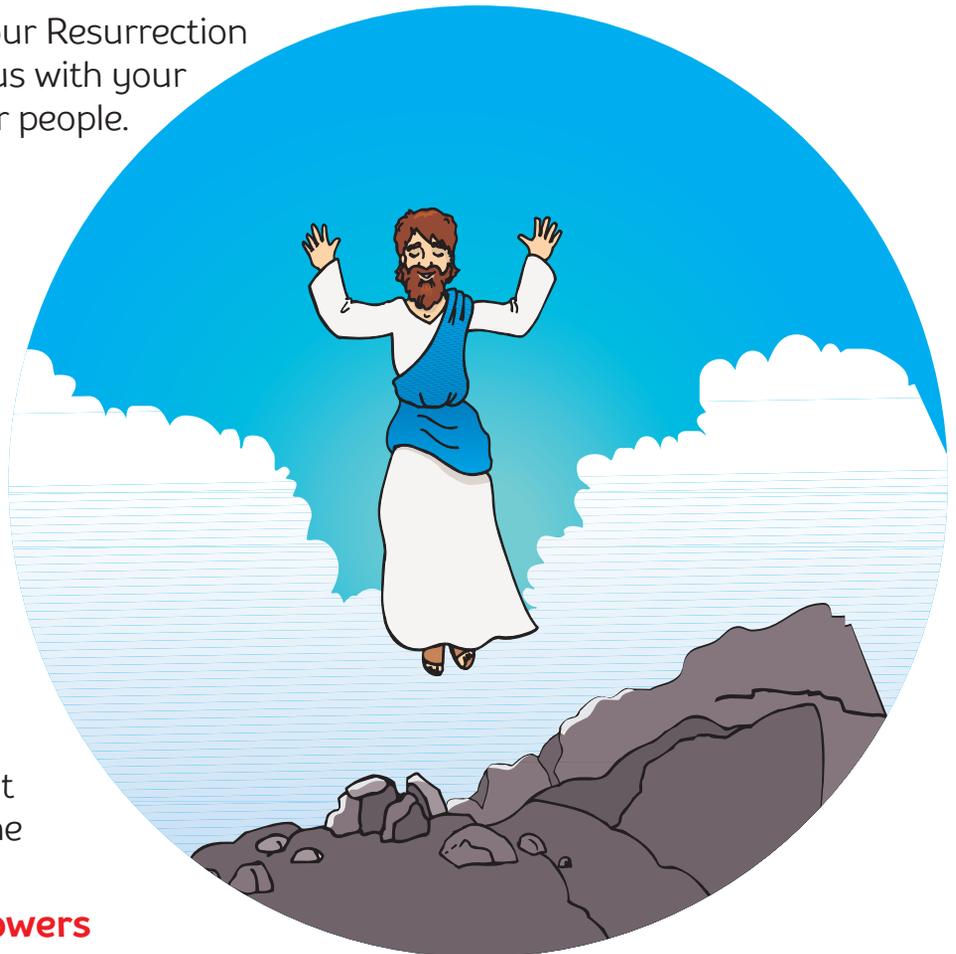
## The Word of God This Week

### Jesus Returns to Heaven

Jesus led his disciples to Bethany, where he raised his hands and blessed them. As he was doing this he was taken up to Heaven. The disciples returned to Jerusalem where they spent their time praising God in the temple.

### Jesus Prays for His Followers

Jesus prayed: “Father, I pray for these followers, and for everyone else who will have faith. I want all of them to be one with each other and one with us. Then the people of this world will believe that you sent me.”



Visit <https://bit.ly/3sjSNfe> for this week's Gospel Reflection, Saint Spotlight, and more.

## Activity

Jesus wants all of us to be united as one in spirit. Circle the terms that name ways to be united in the Spirit. Then pick one of the words or phrases you circled, write it on the line, and draw a picture of the way you live it.

Scan here  
for family  
resources.



sharing

taking care  
of others

fighting

praying

being selfish

making fun of  
someone

going to Mass

working together  
to help others

yelling in anger

showing kindness

## Family Corner

### Faith Focus

Jesus wants us to be united with him and one another. Our shared faith makes us one in Christ. Like the Apostles, we continue to share Jesus with those around us. It is particularly important for us to share our faith with our families.

### Family Activity

Arrange three stations: the first with holy water; the second with paper/pencil; and the third with a Bible.

**First:** Explain that the Apostles baptized in Jesus' name, as we are baptized. All bless themselves with holy water.

**Second:** Explain that the Apostles wrote letters about Jesus to teach people. Write a family letter about sharing your faith.

**Third:** Explain that we still hear Jesus' words. Read today's Gospel. Invite all to share what the message means to them.

June 5, 2022

Pentecost Sunday

# Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

## Today's Readings

Acts 2:1–11

Psalms 104:1abc, 24, 30–31

1 Corinthians 12:4–7, 12–13

John 20:19–23



## We Pray

Jesus, send your Holy Spirit upon us to guide us and fill our hearts with love. Amen.

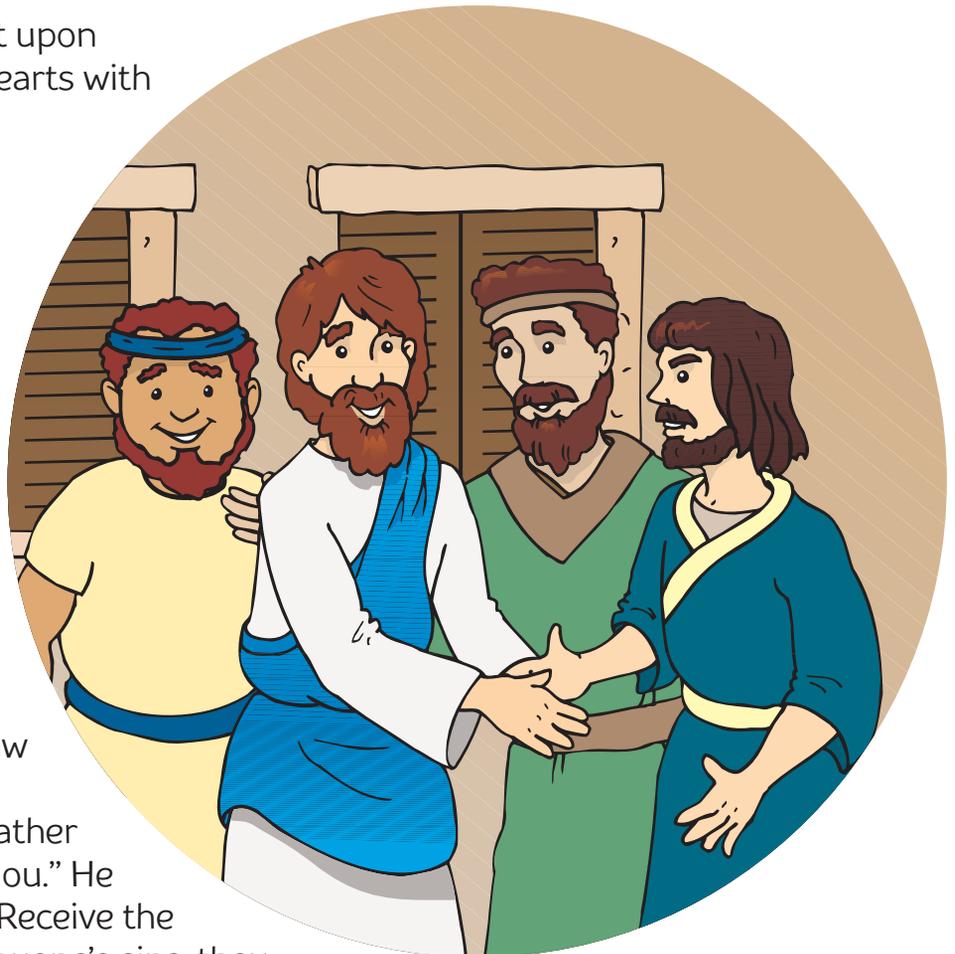


## The Word of God This Week

### Jesus Sends the Apostles

The disciples were afraid of the Jewish leaders and, on Sunday evening, they locked themselves in a room. Jesus appeared among them and greeted them. When the disciples saw the Lord, they were happy.

Jesus said, "Just as the Father has sent me, I am sending you." He breathed on them, saying, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they will be forgiven. But if you don't forgive their sins, they will not be forgiven."



Visit <https://bit.ly/3sjSNfe> for this week's Gospel Reflection, Saint Spotlight, and more.

## Activity

The Holy Spirit gives us gifts that we can share with the world. Color the names of gifts the Holy Spirit gives us. Think about how you can share these gifts every day.

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## Family Corner

### Faith Focus

When we think about the Holy Spirit, we often think of power and unpredictability. We speak of the Holy Spirit as a strong, driving wind.

Whenever the Spirit acts, things happen. There is a force and energy that breathes new life into a person, a family, or the Church.

### Family Activity

Set up a table with a candle for each family member. Gather the family around the table. Review today's First Reading about the dramatic way the Holy Spirit became known to Jesus' followers.

First, the disciples heard a strong wind. Then the Holy Spirit came upon them as tongues of fire. (Light a candle for each family member.) Talk about how the disciples might have felt and how their lives may have changed following this event.

June 12, 2022

The Most Holy Trinity

# Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

## Today's Readings

Proverbs 8:22–31  
Psalm 8:3–4, 5–6, 7–8  
John 16:12–15



## We Pray

Jesus, you send the Holy Spirit to us to teach us to live as your people. Give us faithful hearts that follow the Spirit's guidance. Amen.



## The Word of God This Week

### The Holy Spirit Teaches Us

Jesus said to his disciples: "The Spirit shows what is true and will come and guide you into the full truth. The Spirit will tell you only what he has heard from me, and he will tell you what is going to happen. The Spirit will bring glory to me by telling my message to you. Everything that the Father has is mine; that is why I said that the Spirit tells you my message."



Visit <https://bit.ly/3sjSNfe> for this week's Gospel Reflection, Saint Spotlight, and more.

## Activity

Use the following words to complete the poem about God.

Scan here  
for family  
resources.



Spirit  
ways

guide  
us

days  
within

Savior  
sins



We believe that God loves \_\_\_\_\_ .

He shows his love in many \_\_\_\_\_ .

God sent us his Son and \_\_\_\_\_ .

To brighten all our \_\_\_\_\_ .

Jesus was sent to be our \_\_\_\_\_ .

To save us from our \_\_\_\_\_ .

The Spirit was sent to be our \_\_\_\_\_ .

To help us find the good \_\_\_\_\_ .

## Family Corner

### Faith Focus

Today's Gospel is filled with references to the Holy Trinity. It is difficult to understand our One God in Three Divine Persons. No one has been able to completely understand the Trinity.

One image is that of the Son and the Spirit as the two hands by which the Father reaches out to us. Jesus came to free us from sin so we could live in unity with God. The Spirit has been sent to continue to guide us in truth.

### Family Activity

This family activity emphasizes the Father's love for us. Gather a variety of objects (stuffed animals, books, balls, etc.). Blindfold one child and give him or her an object to identify just by touching. Repeat the process with all the children until all objects have been identified.

Then talk about what it is like to "see" with our hands—how we communicate through touch. A hug or a touch of a hand tells someone we care.

June 19, 2022

The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

# Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

## Today's Readings

Genesis 14:18–20  
Psalm 110:1, 3, 4  
1 Corinthians 11:23–26  
Luke 9:11b–17



## We Pray

Jesus, you love us and care for all our needs. Help us to care for others and to share your love. Amen.



## The Word of God This Week

### Jesus Feeds the Crowd

Jesus spoke with a crowd about God's kingdom and healed everyone who was sick. Then his Apostles told him to send the people away to find a place to stay and something to eat. The Apostles had only five small loaves of bread and two fish and could not feed the 5,000 hungry people.

Instead, Jesus blessed the bread and fish, and the disciples handed them out. Everyone ate all they wanted. What was left over filled twelve baskets.



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## Activity

Jesus did something in today's Gospel that is similar to what he does at the Last Supper. Using the Letter Code, complete the sentence below.

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for family  
resources.



### Letter Code

A =		E =		N =	
B =		H =		S =	
D =		L =		V =	

“He looked up toward \_\_\_\_\_



and \_\_\_\_\_ the food.”



### Family Corner

#### Faith Focus

In our minds, anything exclusive often seems important or special. In today's Gospel, the gathering of Jesus' followers is not exclusive. Anyone could attend. Nevertheless, these people were definitely the most fortunate. They accepted the invitation to listen to Jesus. We, too, are among the fortunate ones: we are invited to join at the Lord's Table at Mass and gather as his people.

#### Family Activity

Participating at the Lord's Table means involvement and sharing. Complete one of the following suggestions to help your children understand involvement and sharing.

- Prepare a meal together and take it to a neighbor or family member who is elderly, housebound, or lonely.
- Bake bread together. Pray the Our Father, then eat the bread and talk about what happened in your lives this week.

June 26, 2022

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

# Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

## Today's Readings

1 Kings 19:16b, 19–21  
Psalm 16:1–2ab and 5, 7–8, 11  
Galatians 5:1, 13–15  
Luke 9:57–62



## We Pray

Lord Jesus, you are our Friend, our Brother, and our Teacher. Please guide us and help us know and follow your teachings. Amen.



## The Word of God This Week

### Jesus Teaches About God's Kingdom

Jesus told someone to follow him. The man said that he wanted to wait until he buried his father. Jesus replied, "Let the dead take care of the dead, while you go and tell about God's kingdom."

Someone else said he wanted to go with Jesus, but first he needed to take care of things at home. Jesus replied, "Anyone who starts plowing and keeps looking back isn't worth anything in God's kingdom!"

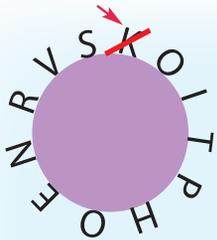


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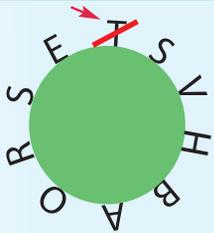
## Activity

Sometimes situations in life require sacrifice. Beside each situation below is a circle of letters. Beginning at the arrow, cross out that letter and every other letter following it. Write down the remaining letters to discover the sacrifice you would have to make in each situation described. The first letter has been done for you.



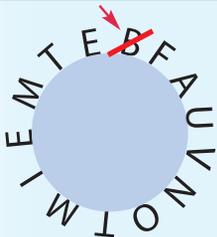
You are reading a good book but your mom wants you to play with your little brother.

I will have to put **O** \_\_\_\_\_ first.



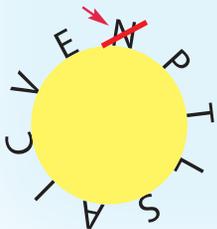
You are eating your favorite snack. A friend asks to have some.

I will have to **S** \_\_\_\_\_.



You are visiting friends and your parents say it is time to go home.

I will have to give up **f** \_\_\_\_\_ **t** \_\_\_\_\_ with my friends.



You play goalie on your soccer team. Another student joins the team and is a better goalie than you are.

I will have to give up my **p** \_\_\_\_\_ on the team.

## Family Corner

### Faith Focus

What if one day God told you to quit your job, sell your home, and move to another town? Would you be willing?

In today's Gospel, Jesus' message is that if we want to follow him we must be open to answering God's call to change. Some changes may be radical and visible, like a change in profession. Some may call for internal changes in attitudes or behaviors. Whatever it may be, are we willing to change?

### Family Activity

Sometimes we need to have a life "checkup." Use these questions as starting points for discussion about making changes for God.

**Spiritual Life:** Do I spend time daily in personal prayer? Do I attend Mass regularly?

**Family Life:** Do I spend enough time with my family members? Do I listen when they have problems?

**Work or School Life:** Am I a positive, supportive person? Do I refuse to gossip? Do I work to the best of my ability?

July 3, 2022

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

# Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

## Today's Readings

Isaiah 66:10–14c  
Psalm 66:1–3ab, 6–7a, 16, 20  
Luke 10:1–9



## We Pray

Jesus, we want to be people who love peace. We want to bring your peace to others. Show us how and guide us. Amen.



## The Word of God This Week

### The Disciples Go Forth in Jesus' Name

The Lord sent his followers to every town and village where he was about to go. “When you enter a home, say, ‘God bless this home with peace.’ If the people living there are peace-loving, your prayer for peace will bless them. But if they are not peace-loving, your prayer will return to you.

“If the people of a town welcome you, eat whatever they offer. Heal their sick and say, ‘God’s kingdom will soon be here!’”



Visit <https://bit.ly/3sjSNfe> for this week's Gospel Reflection, Saint Spotlight, and more.

## Activity

In the Gospel today, Jesus told his disciples to say a special prayer when entering the homes of people. Read the household blessing below. Then decorate the sign.

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resources.



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## Family Corner

### Faith Focus

In today's Gospel Jesus tells his Apostles to give the blessing of peace to the homes in which they stay. This word *peace* has many facets.

When we pray for world peace, we pray for an absence of conflict. While this is good, there is no peace without justice, without a genuine attempt to understand and work with others. Also, peace of mind can exist in the middle of conflict if one has found serenity deep within.

### Family Activity

This week, pray the prayer of blessing over any business or dwelling you enter: "May the peace of the Lord be in this house." Be a person of peace by blessing your family every morning: "May the peace of the Lord be within you."

You will notice positive changes in your home, workplace, and school, and within yourself. Write them on a sheet of paper. Discuss with your family what effect prayer has had on your life.

July 10, 2022

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

# Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

## Today's Readings

Deuteronomy 30:10–14

Psalms 69:13, 29–30

Colossians 1:18–20

Luke 10:25–37



## We Pray

Lord Jesus, when we find it difficult to act with kindness, help us remember your words and your example. Make us people who act with love. Amen.



## The Word of God This Week

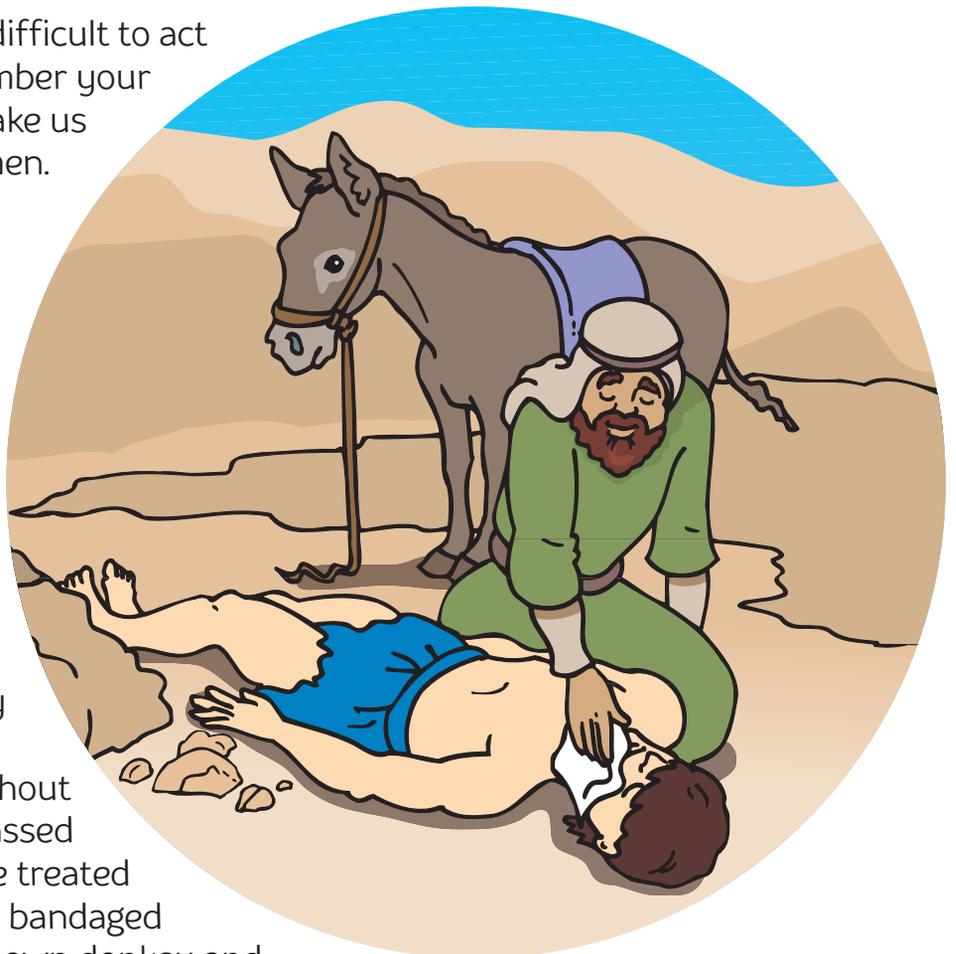
### The Parable of the Good Samaritan

Jesus told this story:

A man was traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho when robbers beat him and took everything he had. They left him half dead.

Two people passed by without helping. Then a Samaritan passed by. When he saw the man, he treated his wounds with olive oil and bandaged them. He put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn.

The Samaritan was a real neighbor. We are to do as he did.



Visit <https://bit.ly/3sjSNfe> for this week's Gospel Reflection, Saint Spotlight, and more.

## Activity

Use these pictures to fill in the missing words from today's Gospel story.



# The Good Neighbor



coins



donkey



robbers



man



inn



Jerusalem

A man was going from  \_\_\_\_\_

to Jericho.  \_\_\_\_\_ beat him up.

A man from Samaria took care of his wounds and put him on

his  \_\_\_\_\_.

He took him to an  \_\_\_\_\_.

He gave the innkeeper two silver  \_\_\_\_\_ to take care of the wounded man.

The  \_\_\_\_\_ from Samaria was a friend to his neighbor.

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## Family Corner

### Faith Focus

The Good Samaritan story is familiar. All people are our neighbors. Now, God does not expect us to put ourselves or our loved ones in harm's way to help others. But if we see an obvious need, and we feel that we are not personally in danger, we are obliged as Christians to help. The point Jesus was making was that it should not matter who needs help. Every person is our neighbor.

### Family Activity

As a family, make a list of friends who need your help. Write the kind of need next to their names and set deadlines to meet those needs. Then, make a list of acquaintances. What can you do for them? Set deadlines and plan to meet the needs. This may take several months but, if possible, each week at a family meal talk about the experience you have had as you reached out to your neighbor.

July 17, 2022

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

# Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

## Today's Readings

Genesis 18:1–10a  
Psalm 15:1–3a, 3bc and 5ef  
Colossians 1:27–28  
Luke 10:38–42



## We Pray

Jesus, help us know what is most important in your kingdom. Help us always put you first in our lives. Amen.



## The Word of God This Week

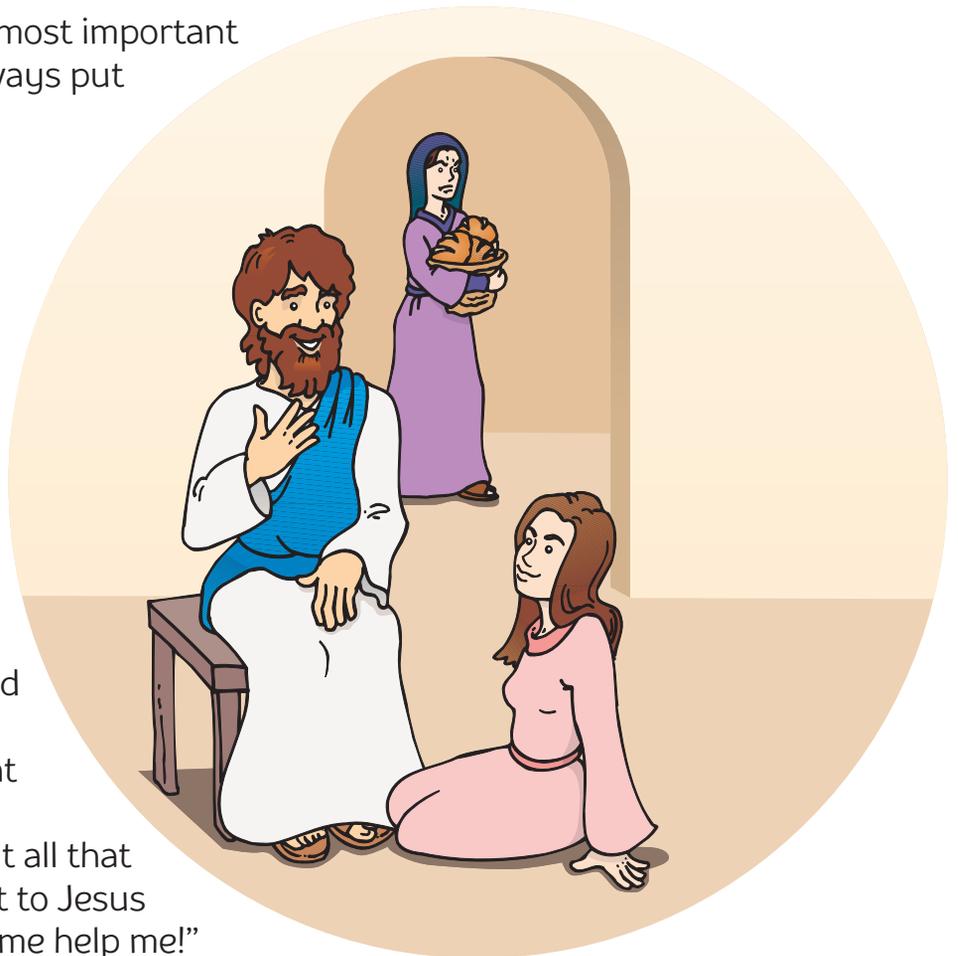
### Jesus Visits Martha and Mary

The Lord and his disciples traveled to a village where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home.

Martha had a sister named Mary, who sat in front of the Lord and listened to what he said.

Martha was worried about all that needed to be done. She went to Jesus and said, “Lord, tell her to come help me!”

The Lord answered, “Mary has chosen what is best, and it will not be taken away from her.”

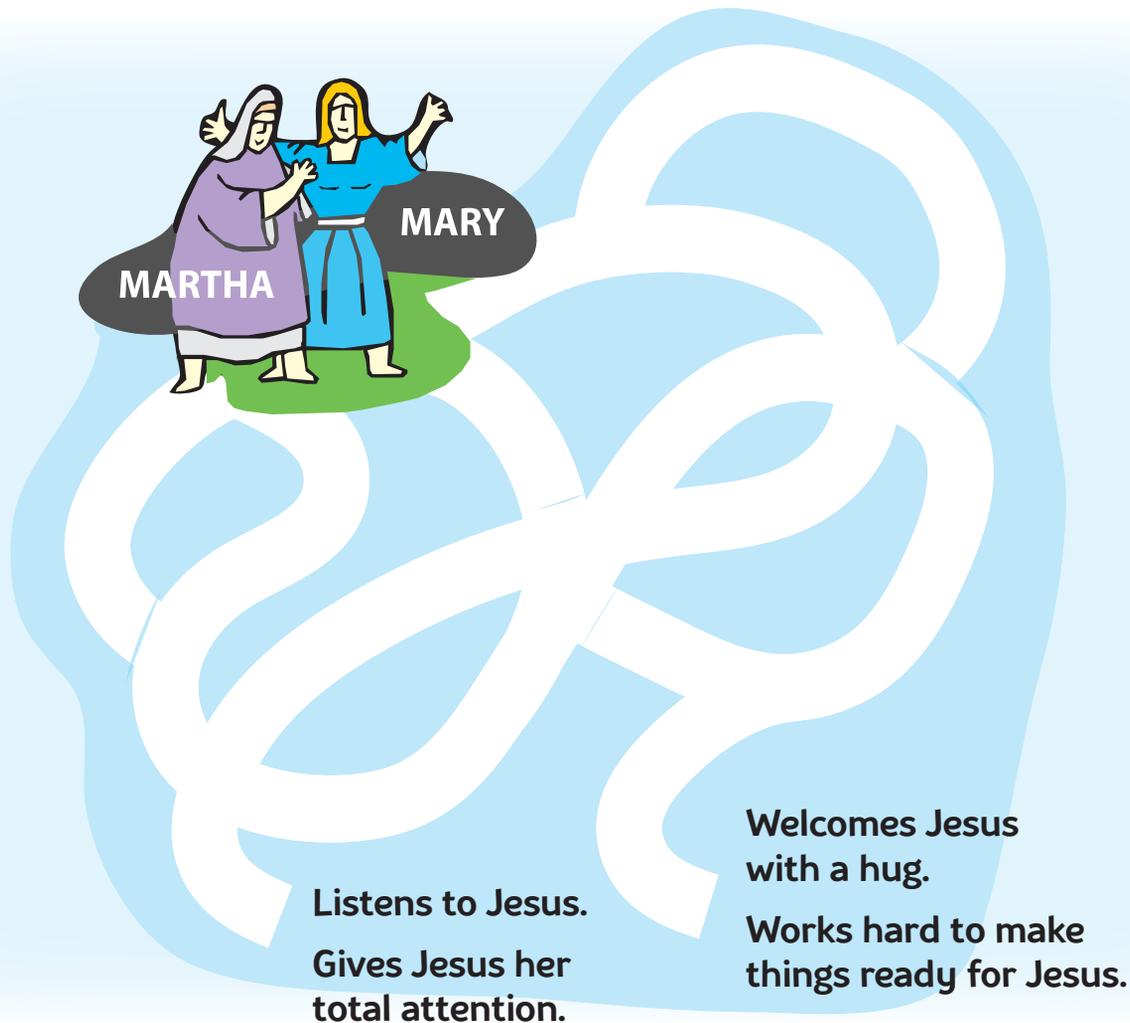


Visit <https://bit.ly/3sjSNfe> for this week's Gospel Reflection, Saint Spotlight, and more.

## Activity

Mary and Martha both used their gifts to make Jesus feel welcome. Draw a red line from Mary's name to the two ways she made Jesus welcome. Draw a blue line from Martha's name to the two ways she made Jesus welcome.

Scan here  
for family  
resources.



## Family Corner

### Faith Focus

Today's Gospel often leaves us with the impression that Mary's gifts and talents are more desirable than Martha's. Like Mary and Martha, each of us has a unique combination of gifts and talents. We also have our unique weaknesses.

In families, problems can arise if we value certain gifts and talents more than others. While it may be easy to appreciate and relate to certain gifts in one child, it is important that another child not feel undervalued.

### Family Activity

Get a sheet of poster board for each family member. Have each person write his or her name in large letters on the top and make a list of the things they do well.

Designate one day for each family member to display his or her sheet in a prominent place. Have family members draw or write on the sheet additional gifts they see in this person, and write him or her notes of appreciation.

July 24, 2022

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

# Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

## Today's Readings

Genesis 18:20–32  
Psalm 138:1–2a, 2bcdef-3,  
7abde–8abc  
Luke 11:1–10



## We Pray

Jesus, teach us to never be discouraged and to always trust that you hear us and answer our prayers. Amen.



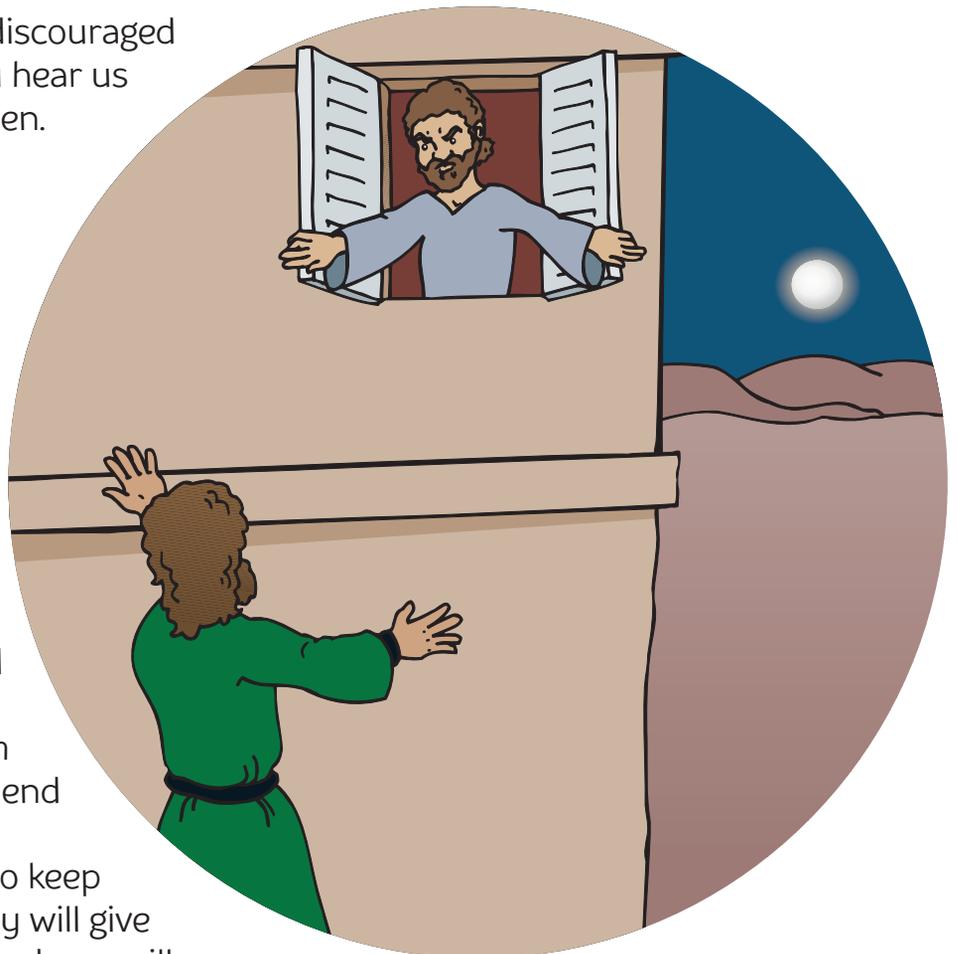
## The Word of God This Week

### Jesus Teaches About Prayer

Jesus told this story:

“Suppose you go to a friend in the middle of the night and say, ‘Let me borrow some bread. A friend of mine has dropped in, and I don’t have anything for him to eat.’ And suppose your friend answers, ‘Don’t bother me!’

“If you are not ashamed to keep asking, your friend eventually will give you what you need. So ask and you will receive, search and you will find, knock and the door will be opened.”



Visit <https://bit.ly/3sjSNfe> for this week's Gospel Reflection, Saint Spotlight, and more.

## Activity

Find the words from today's Gospel. Then use the words to complete the message.

Scan here for family resources.



SEARCH

ASK

DOOR

FIND

RECEIVE

KNOCK

B	S	R	T	L	B	D	M
T	D	E	N	E	P	O	N
N	S	C	A	K	V	O	H
B	T	E	I	R	N	R	L
L	F	I	N	D	C	T	A
J	S	V	B	P	D	H	S
S	T	E	K	N	O	C	K

“So I tell you to \_\_\_\_\_ and you will \_\_\_\_\_,

\_\_\_\_\_ and you will \_\_\_\_\_,

and the \_\_\_\_\_ will be opened for you.”

### Family Corner

#### Faith Focus

In today's Gospel Jesus encourages people to seek the help they need and, if they don't get it easily, to keep on asking. Persistence is often the only way we are able to get the help we need.

The big picture is that God didn't intend for us to go it alone. We are to mutually support and share with one another. A faith community should be the ideal setting through which everyone's needs are met.

#### Family Activity

Review your family's needs and discuss how you may be helpful to one another. If necessary, brainstorm ways to get your needs met from outside the family.

If your family is blessed with few needs you are not able to meet yourselves, expand your discussion to include how you can help others. Pull out your parish newsletter or bulletin and make a list of all the efforts being made to help people. Make a commitment to help with just one effort.

July 31, 2022

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

# Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

## Today's Readings

Colossians 3:1–4  
Psalm 147:1, 3–4, 5 and 7  
Luke 12:16–21



## We Pray

God, our Heavenly Father, help us to share our possessions and our love with others. Amen.



## The Word of God This Week

### The Parable of the Rich Man

Jesus told the people this story:

“A rich man’s farm produced a big crop. He didn’t have a place large enough to store everything, so he decided to build bigger barns to store all his grain and other goods. Then he could enjoy himself.

“But God said to him, ‘You fool! Tonight you will die. Then who will get what you have stored up?’

“This is what happens to people who are poor in the sight of God and store things for themselves.”



Visit <https://bit.ly/3sjSNfe> for this week's Gospel Reflection, Saint Spotlight, and more.

## Activity

We store up our treasure in Heaven by sharing our time, talent, and treasure on earth. Look at these actions you might perform. If the action involves spending time with someone, color the coin marked Time. If the action involves helping by using a special gift or skill you have, color the coin marked Talent. If the action involves sharing something you own, color the coin marked Treasure. Some actions may involve more than one coin.

Scan here  
for family  
resources.



I save my allowance and buy someone a gift.



I help my mom at the grocery store.



I read a book to my little sister.



I share my candy with a friend.



I visit with grandmother.



I teach my brother to ride a bike.



I donate to the food pantry.



I show my friend how to skate.



## Family Corner

### Faith Focus

Today's reading has an important message. In our culture, we are often focused only on our own well-being and on providing ourselves and our families secure futures. Some prudence in planning is necessary, but becoming entirely self-focused on amassing material treasures only encourages greed. Responsible stewardship means working for your family's security while also working for the common good.

### Family Activity

Give each family member twenty coins. Place a box in a common area in your home. During the week, each person is to try to get rid of all his or her coins by doing good deeds. Each time you show respect or generosity toward someone in your family, at school, at work, etc., put a coin in the box. At the end of the week, count the coins and talk about your contributions. Then give the money to a charity.

August 7, 2022

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

# Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

## Today's Readings

Hebrews 11:1–2, 8–12  
Psalm 143:1, 8, 10  
Luke 12:35–40



## We Pray

Jesus, in the morning and at night and every day of our lives, we want to be ready to welcome you. Help us to always be ready. Amen.



## The Word of God This Week

### Jesus Says, "Be Ready"

Jesus told his disciples to be ready and keep their lamps burning just like those servants who wait for their master to return from a wedding. The master who finds his servants awake and ready when he comes will have the servants sit down so he can serve them.

Jesus said, "If you knew when a thief was coming, you would not let him break into your home. So be ready, because you don't know when the Son of Man will come."



Visit <https://bit.ly/3sjSNfe> for this week's Gospel Reflection, Saint Spotlight, and more.

## Activity

Jesus said we should always be ready for him. Imagine that Jesus will be visiting you today. What are some things you can do to prepare? Two things have been listed. Write or draw at least three more.

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for family  
resources.



Pray the  
Our Father

Be kind

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## Family Corner

### Faith Focus

- Lamps are practical but they are also symbolic.
- They're welcoming. They provide comfort. They guide us home. They are a sign of preparation for the coming of the Lord.
- Lamps do these things because they give light. Being in the light makes us less fearful. We are called to be like these lamps and let the light of the Lord shine in our lives. When others are with us, they should experience God's love, compassion, and joy.

### Family Activity

- Slightly darken a room in your house and place obstacles in the open space. Have family members cross the room while blindfolded, with minimal guidance from another family member. Repeat this, allowing family members to open their eyes and use a flashlight. Discuss the following:
- Describe how you felt not knowing what might be in your path.
  - How did you feel when the flashlight lit your path?

August 14, 2022

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

# Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

## Today's Readings

Jeremiah 38:4–6, 8–10  
Psalm 40:1, 2, 17  
Hebrews 12:1–4  
Luke 12:49–53



## We Pray

Lord Jesus, sometimes we face hard choices. Help us to always choose the path of goodness and live in your love. Amen.



## The Word of God This Week

### Jesus Teaches About Faith

Jesus said to his disciples: “I came to set the earth on fire, and I wish it were already! I am going to be put to a hard test, and I will suffer a lot of pain.

“I did not come to bring peace to earth. I came to make people choose sides. A family of five will be divided. Fathers and sons will turn against one another, and mothers and daughters will do the same.”



Visit <https://bit.ly/3sjSNfe> for this week's Gospel Reflection, Saint Spotlight, and more.

## Activity

Unscramble the sentence below for a reminder of why we do not have to be afraid. The first word has been done for you.

Scan here  
for family  
resources.



strong Jesus and am ~~With~~ I brave

W i t h \_\_\_\_\_ ,  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ .



## Family Corner

### Faith Focus

This week's Gospel indicates that faith in Jesus Christ will tear families into two groups, believers and unbelievers. One way to ensure that your family is not torn apart is to raise your children in the faith of Jesus Christ. A great benefit to having faith is that it allows us to be brave and strong when we're afraid for any reason, because we remember that Jesus is always with us.

### Family Activity

This week, have each family member contribute ideas to a list of things you can do when you're afraid. Post the list in a prominent spot. Then practice doing some of the things on the list so you're prepared when a time comes that you are afraid. Some things to include on your list are:

- Pray the Hail Mary.
- Picture yourself being brave and strong.
- Ask Jesus to make you brave and strong.

August 21, 2022

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

# Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

## Today's Readings

Hebrews 12:5a, 6–7, 11  
Psalm 119:165, 168, 171  
Luke 13:22–30



## We Pray

Jesus, you came to our world to teach us about eternal life with the Blessed Trinity. Walk with us each day and lead us to Heaven. Amen.

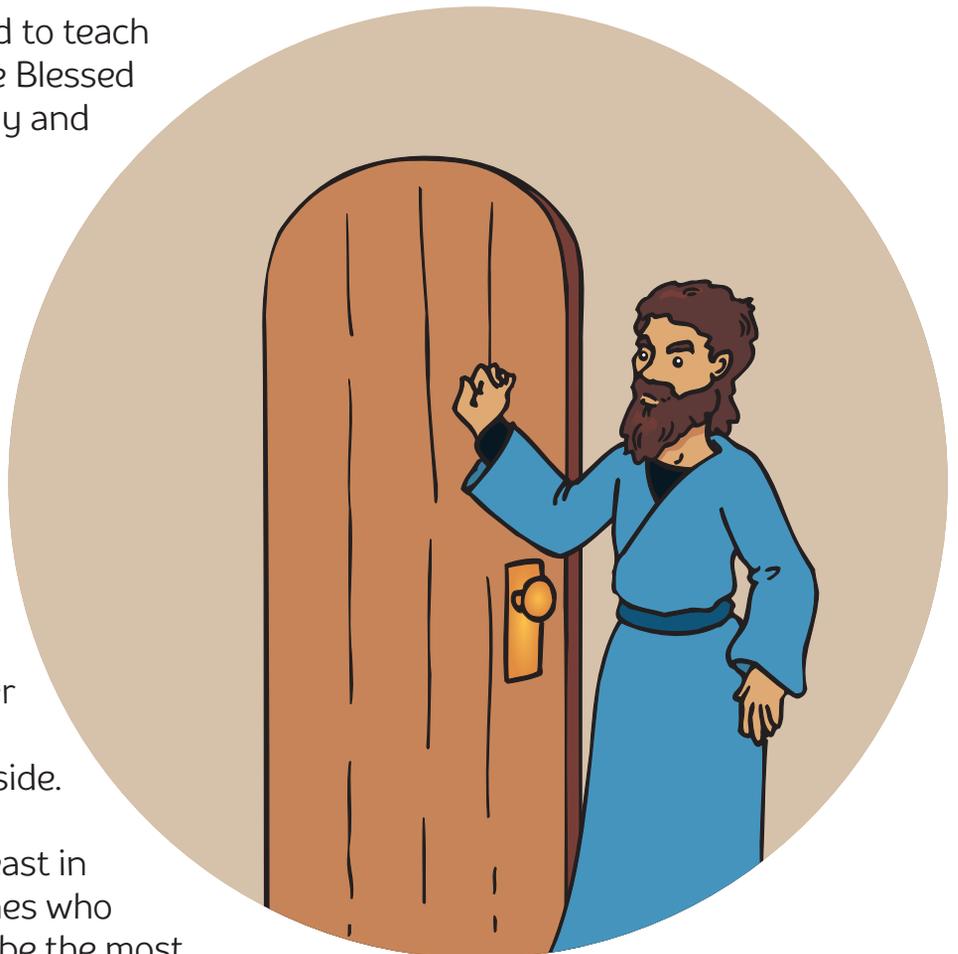


## The Word of God This Week

### Jesus Teaches About God's Kingdom

Someone asked Jesus if only a few people will be saved. He answered: "Do all you can to go in by the narrow door! Once the owner of the house locks the door, you will be left standing outside.

"People will come from all directions and sit down to feast in God's kingdom. There, the ones who are now least important will be the most important, and those who are now most important will be least important."



Visit <https://bit.ly/3sjSNfe> for this week's Gospel Reflection, Saint Spotlight, and more.

## Activity

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us who is most important in God's kingdom. To find out who Jesus said is most important, unscramble the word in each oval. Write the words on the lines below.



The ones who are \_\_\_\_\_ important  
will be the \_\_\_\_\_ important.

## Family Corner

### Faith Focus

Certain events and occasions require a particular type of dress or behavior. When someone violates the dress code or behaves inappropriately, he or she is ostracized or criticized.

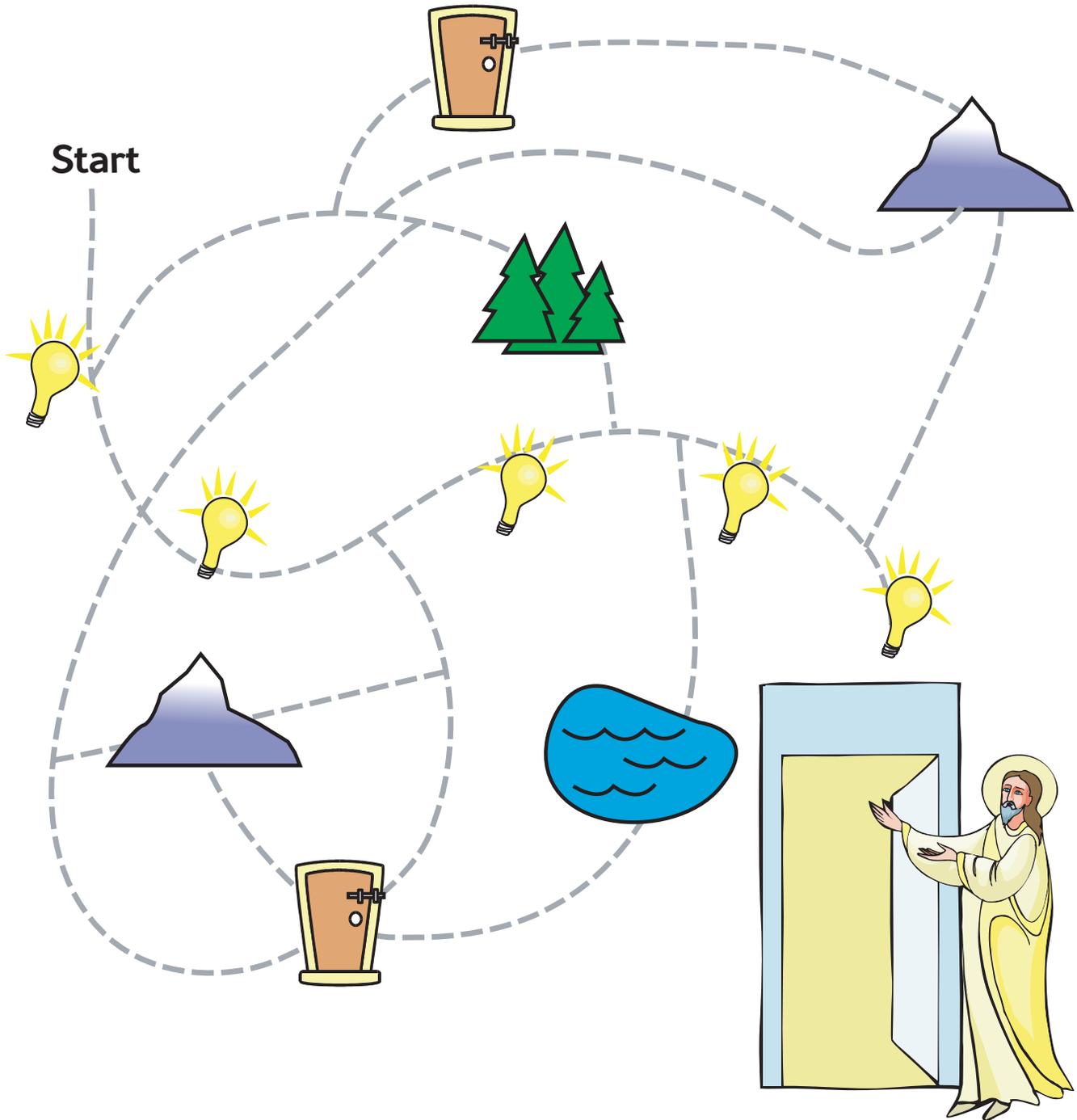
Although we are welcome at the Lord's banquet, today's Gospel tells us that we are not guaranteed a place. A spirit of humility is necessary to guarantee our place at the Lord's table. A humble person is grateful for the honor of eating at the Lord's table.

### Family Activity

It is easy to fall into the trap that we are "owed" something. Humble people, however, recognize the many gifts they have received from God and others. This knowledge fills them with gratitude, and they frequently say thank you to God and to others.

Make a list of the gifts and blessings that God has given you this year. Then read your list as a litany of thanks. As each item is read have everyone respond, "Thank you, Lord."

Below are many obstacles and wrong paths. Follow the path with the lamps to get around the obstacles and find your way to meet Jesus.



Jesus tells his followers to bless people. There is a special prayer of blessing below, but the first letter of each word is missing. Look for the shape that matches the one in the blessing below. Write that letter in the space. You will find a simple blessing you can say to others.

**G T B V Y**

**GOD**

**BLESS**

**YOU**

Jesus tells us that we should store up treasure in Heaven. One way we do this is by sharing with others. Below is a game called Treasure in Heaven. Along the path, there are pictures of things you can share. To play the game, you will need two coins. Use one coin for a marker. Flip the other coin. If it turns up heads, move two spaces. If it turns up tails, move one space.

