

February 10, 2019

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

Today's Readings

Isaiah 6:1–2a, 3–8
Psalm 138:1acd–2a, 4–5
1 Corinthians 15:3–8, 11
Luke 5:1–11

Jesus Helps Simon Believe

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

Though I walk in the midst of dangers, you guard my life when my enemies rage. You stretch out your hand; your right hand saves me. The LORD is with me to the end. LORD, your mercy endures forever. Never forsake the work of your hands! (Psalm 138:7–8)

Scripture Background

Today's First Reading relates a theme found elsewhere in Scripture: God does not call the qualified, but qualifies those who are called. During a powerful vision of God's majesty, Isaiah protests that his sinfulness should bar him from any direct dealings with the Holy One. Although it is true that human sinfulness and divine holiness are polar opposites, it is equally true that God has power over sin. So when God declares Isaiah cleansed of his guilt, the humble man of prayer is ready to respond to his prophetic calling.

In the Second Reading, Paul counts off a multitude of witnesses to Christ's Resurrection: Peter, James, the Twelve, "more than five hundred other followers," and, last of all, Paul himself. All those named have in common a sinful past but also a glorious present and an even more glorious future, thanks to Christ's saving Death. It is all Christ's doing; his followers have only to cooperate with his freely offered grace.

The Gospel contains interesting echoes of the First Reading. "Don't be afraid!" Jesus replies with almost fatherly

Prepare the Meeting Space

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

- ▶ a lectionary
- ▶ a battery-operated candle
- ▶ a fishbowl filled with cutout paper fish on which you have glued pictures of persons and groups needing our prayers (one picture per child).

Suggested Music

See page 62 for more information.

Gathering: "I Am the Way" (Seeds CD-2, Track #19) or "Come and Follow Me" (Promise & Good News CD-1, Track #20)

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

encouragement to Peter's confession of unworthiness. Clearly the spiritual master who has made Peter a successful fisherman can also make him a worthy apostle.

When hearing a call from God, it is natural to feel unworthy. Something would be wrong with us if we didn't. But we can't let our feelings of guilt dictate our response to God's grace. If we do, Christ, the "fisher of people," will *never* find any helpers!

Children's Connections

Today is one of those days when the most important thing you can do is read the Gospel story well. Colorful and vivid, the story requires a reader who can convey these qualities effectively. Become especially animated when you get to the part where nets start breaking and boats start sinking because of their heavy loads. In parts where there is dialogue between Jesus and Peter, change your voice to match each character—or perhaps draft two other adults or two teens to read the parts. Most important of all, practice reading the Gospel aloud several times before presenting it to the children.

Last week we mentioned that children lacking in proper self-regard are those most likely to be bullied. During today's homily and prayers of petition, help each child feel his or her own importance by stressing how powerful a child's prayers can be.

Years ago, Sister Susan, a social studies teacher in a Catholic suburban high school, routinely asked her students to pray for various needs and causes. Sister Susan said that over the years she had noticed remarkable results whenever she had asked young people to pray for someone or something in particular. She noticed that praying for others had the effect of making the students more empathic.

More About ...

The Catechism on Divine Grace

- "Grace is favor, the free and undeserved help that God gives us to respond to his call to become children of God" and to participate in the divine nature and everlasting life. (#1996)
- "Grace is a participation in the life of God." It gives us a share in the life of the Trinity and enables us, as God's sons and daughters by adoption, to join with Jesus in calling God "Father." (#1997)
- Through grace God completes in us the work that was done by our creation. In the words of Saint Augustine: "Indeed we also work, but we are only collaborating with God who works." (#2001)
- "God's free initiative" requires from us a free response, for God created people in the divine image by giving them, along with freedom, the powers of knowing and loving God. "The soul only enters freely into the communion of love." (#2002)

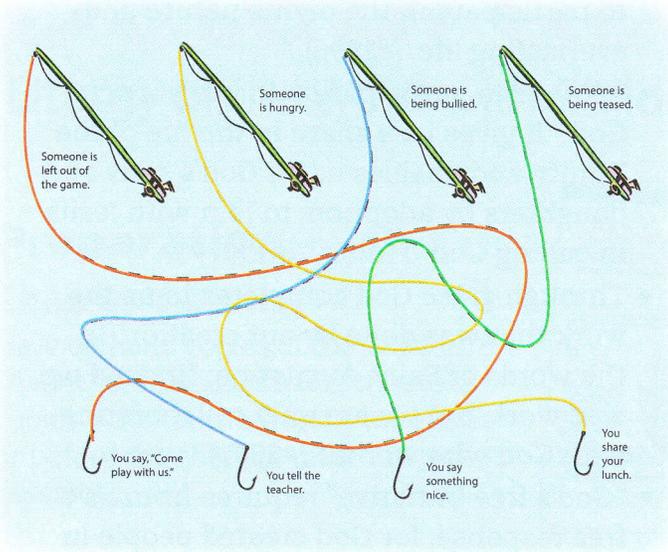
The Children's Leaflet

The leaflet for this week helps children learn about Jesus' call to his disciples, through a summary of the Gospel, prayer, 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

In this week's Gospel, the children will learn how Jesus found and called his first apostles. Children will know that they are also called to follow Jesus. This week, parents should help their children ponder the ways they follow Jesus in their daily lives.



The Liturgy of the Word

Gathering

After the children have assembled, tell them that today you will begin with a game called "Occupations." Act out for the group the kind of work your mother or father did when you were little, and see if the children can guess what occupation you are portraying. The first child to guess correctly gets to do the next pantomime. Each child should act out the occupation of a parent, but in case someone doesn't know a parent's line of work or how to portray it, be ready to help out with some other suggestion whispered into the child's ear: carpenter, cook, truck driver, rock singer, doctor, orchestra conductor, house painter, etc.

When the game is over, tell the children that today's Gospel mentions the kind of work that several of Jesus' disciples did before they met Jesus. Do the children know what kind of work that was? Pantomime fishing if they are not sure.

Collect

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

Loving God, you call on all kinds of people to serve in your kingdom. You even call on little children. Help us to do everything you ask of us, through Christ our Lord.

Children: Amen.

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

First Reading

Leader: What do angels look like? How do you know? The fact is, we can't be sure. But in today's First Reading, the prophet Isaiah tells us what angels looked like *to him* one day when he saw them in a vision. Let's listen.

Read Isaiah 6:1–2a, 3–8. 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: In the sight of the angels I will sing your praises, Lord.

Children: In the sight of the angels I will sing your praises, Lord.

Leader: *Read Psalm 138:1acd–2a, 4–5.*

Second Reading

Leader: Did you notice something important in our First Reading? God was surrounded by wonderful angels, but God wanted a *human being* to come forward and help with a special mission. In the Second Reading, Saint Paul tells us about a mission God gave Jesus' first disciples—a mission to preach a very important message. What do you suppose that message was?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:3–8, 11. 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 Gospel Acclamation, proceed to the proclamation of the Gospel.

Proclaim the Gospel

Leader: The special message of Jesus' Apostles was the good news about the Resurrection. Now in today's Gospel, we are going to learn how Jesus first met three of his Apostles: Simon Peter, James, and John.

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 5:1–11. Then say, "The Gospel of the Lord."*

Children: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Make sure the children understand the initial situation in the Gospel. Along a lakeshore, so many people were crowding around Jesus that he needed a way to stand a little apart from the crowd and a little above it. When he saw Peter's boat, he asked Peter if he could use it for a kind of stage or podium, and Peter agreed.

Then ask these questions:

- ▶ After Jesus finished preaching his sermon from the boat, he told Peter to go out to deeper waters to catch some fish. Why didn't Peter want to go?
- ▶ What two surprising things happened after Peter did what Jesus said?
- ▶ Why did Peter suddenly become afraid of Jesus?
- ▶ What did Jesus want Peter to do from that day forward?

End the homily with the simple observation: "And that's what Jesus wants us to do every day, too."

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 the Father almighty, who made the world and loves everything in it.

Children: I believe in God.

Leader: I believe in God the beloved Son, who became human, suffered, died, and rose again from the dead.

Children: I believe in God.

Leader: I believe in God the Holy Spirit, who fills the hearts of the faithful with the fire of God's love.

Children: I believe in God.

Prayer of the Faithful

Leader: Let us pray. In today's Gospel, Jesus invited Peter to help bring people into God's kingdom. One important way to bring people to God is through prayer. Here in the fishbowl are pictures of people who need our prayers. Please come forward one at a time to "catch" one fish out of the bowl. Look at the picture carefully, then say in a nice loud voice, "Let us pray for ___," adding the name of the person or group you see in your picture. The rest of us will respond, "Hear us, O Lord!" Then take the picture home with you and use it all week as a reminder to pray. I'll go first so that you know what to do

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

Let us pray. Loving God, you want everyone you made to live with you in Heaven one day. Help us be good fishers of people, just as Saint Peter was, so that Heaven will be full of all the people whose lives we have touched. 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 complete the Family Corner activities as a family.