

January 27, 2019

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

Today's Readings

Nehemiah 8:1–4a, 5–6, 8–10
Psalm 19:7, 8, 14
1 Corinthians 12:12–14, 27
Luke 4:14–21

Jesus Reads the Scriptures

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 precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart. The command of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eye. The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The statutes of the LORD are true, all of them just; More desirable than gold, than a hoard of purest gold, Sweeter also than honey or drippings from the comb. (Psalm 19:9–11)

Scripture Background

The First Reading concerns a time in ancient Israel's history when, after 70 years of Babylonian exile, the Jews have returned to their homeland and rebuilt their temple. A crowd gathers to hear the Law of Moses read aloud, and for many it is the first time in their lives that they have heard the teachings of their own religious tradition. They weep because they realize that, unknowingly over the years, they have violated God's Law in their daily lives.

In the Second Reading, Paul shares his understanding of the Church as the Body of Christ. It is through our union with one another, in Christ, that we experience union with God. And it is by treating one another with respect, despite our many differences, that we show respect for Christ himself.

In the Gospel, Jesus stands up in the synagogue at Nazareth to read a Scripture passage that, most commentators believe, he selected himself. The passage from Isaiah joyfully announces the arrival of a new messianic era, which Jesus says "has

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 or fresh flowers
- ▶ a mitten, glove or oven mitt to be used for the Helpers Game

Suggested Music

See page 62 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: "Gospel Acclamation; Alleluia" (*Promise & Good News* CD-2, Track #24)

come true today” with his arrival. The liberation he promises is first and foremost spiritual; it is liberation from the crippling, blinding, impoverishing, misery-inducing powers of sin.

The saving work that Jesus began on that day, in that place, is the same work that we must continue today. For here on Earth, as President John F. Kennedy once said, God’s work must truly be our own.

Children’s Connections

The suggestion for today’s homily is to end it with the “Helpers Game.” If time is limited, however, you may skip the game or use it as a gathering activity instead of the one suggested.

To begin, have the children sit in a circle. Show them a mitten, glove, or oven mitt and explain that it represents a “helping hand.” Then name a place that is part of almost every child’s everyday world—classroom, playground, living room, inside the family car, etc.—and give the “hand” to a seated child, who must name one way that a child his or her age can offer a helping hand in that place.

To name a few examples, in a classroom one could pick up litter from the floor; on the playground one could invite a lonely child to play; in the living room one could let someone else pick what program to watch on TV; inside the family car one could dust the dashboard without being asked, etc.

If a child receiving the hand cannot think of anything to say, he or she simply says, “Help,” and you supply one or more ideas. Then name a new place, and continue the game with the next child in line.

This game uses a brainstorming technique called “sequencing.” The game is meant to: (1) stretch children’s minds by hearing others’ ideas of helpful behavior and (2) review and reinforce codes of proper behavior that children have learned elsewhere.

More About ...

The Catechism on the Virtue of Charity

- “Charity is the theological virtue by which we love God above all things ... and our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God” (#1822).
- We are called to love everyone, even our enemies; to make ourselves the neighbor of those farthest away; and to love children and the poor as if they were Christ himself. (#1825)
- Whatever one’s “privilege, service, or even virtue,” one is nothing without charity. (#1826)
- Charity, which ‘binds everything together in perfect harmony,’ animates and inspires the practice of all the other virtues. (#1827)
- Charity gives Christians the spiritual freedom of the children of God. They no longer stand before God as slaves, in servile fear, or as mercenaries looking for wages, but as children responding in love to a parent who has first loved them. (#1828)

The Children’s Leaflet

The leaflet for this week helps children learn about Jesus proclaiming the Scriptures, through a summary of the Gospel, prayer, 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

Jesus was a helping hand to many during his lifetime, and he continues to be a source of help in all things for Christians today. Children will discuss ways they can continue Jesus' work of sharing the Good News.

<p>"Let's play." I think she needs help. I think he needs a hug.</p>	<p>"Come to my party." I write a thank-you note. I sit up straight at my desk.</p>	<p>"May I have a book?" I make my bed every morning. I think that boy is nice.</p>
<p>THOUGHT</p> <p><u>I think she needs help.</u></p> <p><u>I think he needs a hug.</u></p> <p><u>I think that boy is nice.</u></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>WORD</p> <p><u>Let's play</u></p> <p><u>Come to my party</u></p> <p><u>May I have a book?</u></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>ACTION</p> <p><u>I write a thank-you note.</u></p> <p><u>I sit up straight at my desk.</u></p> <p><u>I make my bed every morning.</u></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>

The Liturgy of the Word

Gathering

Tell the children about the theme for today's liturgy: Here's the place and now's the time to continue the work of Jesus. Then ask them to join along with you in doing the motions for a little song sung to the tune of "Frere Jacques." (Make sure you sing slowly enough for them to follow your moves and imitate them.)

Here's the place (*holding both hands outward in front of you, palms up*).

Now's the time (*holding up right index finger while moving it from left to center to right*).

To do good (*repeat first motion*).

In God's name (*holding both hands upward in gesture of praise*).

We all have different gifts to share (*laying hands on chest, then spreading them outward in a sweeping motion in front of you*).

We all have gifts to show we care (*with both index fingers moving simultaneously, tracing a heart form in the air*).

Here and there (*holding right hand to the right, palm up, then left hand to the left, palm up*).

Everywhere (*raise both hands, palms up, high in the air*).

Collect

Leader: Invite the children to bow their heads and fold their hands. Then pray:

Loving God in Heaven, in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit you are a community of love. With our own hands and hearts, help us build communities of love everywhere we go. This we ask through Christ our Lord.

Children: Amen.

Light the candle for the First Reading.

First Reading

Leader: In today's First Reading, the people are sad when they hear God's laws read to them because they realize they have broken these laws many times. But the prophet Nehemiah says they should be happy instead and rely on God's strength to make them holy.

Read Nehemiah 8:1-4a, 5-6, 8-10.

Leader: 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: Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.

Children: Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.

Leader: *Read Psalm 19:7, 8, 14.*

Second Reading

Leader: The Second Reading will explain why all of us today, in Catholic churches all around the world, should be happy.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 2. 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: All of us should be happy because we belong to Jesus, just as surely as Jesus' own hands and arms and feet and legs belong to him!

Today's Gospel will tell us about the kind of work that Jesus came into the world to do

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 4:14–21. Then say, "The Gospel of the Lord."*

Children: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

First, elaborate on the following two points:

Jesus came to help suffering people wherever he found them.

If we belong to Jesus, then wherever we are, we will be helpers, too. We will try to make life just a little bit nicer for the people in that place.

Then explain the Helpers Game, as described in the Children's Connections section, and play it together.

Profession of Faith

Leader: While remaining in a circle, please stand and hold hands for the profession of faith.

Your response to each question will be, "Yes, I do believe." Do you believe in God the Father almighty, who made the world from love for love?

Children: Yes, I do believe.

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, who came to Earth to offer people a helping hand?

Children: Yes, I do believe.

Leader: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit, who helps us continue the work of Jesus in the world today?

Children: Yes, I do believe.

Prayer of the Faithful

Leader: As we said earlier, here is the place and now is the time to continue the work of Jesus. Therefore let us together lend the world a helping hand with our prayers. To each petition, please respond, "Hear us, O Lord." Through the work of Pope _____ and all Church leaders, we pray for an increase of faith throughout the world. Let us pray to the Lord.



Children: Hear us, O Lord.

Leader: Through the work of world leaders, we pray for an increase of justice and peace throughout the world. Let us pray to the Lord.

Children: Hear us, O Lord.

Leader: Through the work of parents and children, we pray for an increase of love throughout the world. 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. Holy God, when Christ our Lord lived on Earth, he was a human being just like us in all things but sin. He had the hands of a builder and a healer, the mind of a wise teacher, and the heart of a peacemaker. Please make our hands, our minds, and our hearts holy like his, 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 complete the Family Corner activities as a family.