

The 23rd Sunday in Ordinary time (Yr. B) 8th Sept 2024

Vestment Colour: Green

Preparation

If possible, arrange candles, a Crucifix and a Gospel or Sunday Missal on a table.

Introduction

Make the Sign of the Cross – a sign of the love God has for us. (This is optional, as we have already done this at the start of Holy Mass, but for young children it helps to demonstrate and practice how to do this correctly.)

Light the candles on the table next to the Lectionary. An adult lights the candles).

Begin with a welcome such as:

Today we hear how Jesus helps a man who is deaf to hear and to speak more clearly. Let's think some more about that today....

Penitential Act

Adults and children think about how you have behaved in the past week. Especially when your daily routines are different just now. Have you shown patience to those around you? Have you been kind and helpful even when you don't feel like it and it's difficult?

Lead the children in singing the "Sorry Song".

We are sorry,
Truly sorry,
Heal us Lord,
In Your love,
Help us to do better,
Help us to be kinder.
Forgive us,
Forgive us.

(To the Tune of Frere Jacques)

Gloria (*you can use a children's version of the Gloria from a children's liturgy resource*)

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you; we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you.
We give you thanks for your great glory.
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.
Lord Jesus Christ,
only begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
Son of the Father,
You take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us;
You take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer.
You are seated at the right hand of the Father:
have mercy on us.
For You alone are the Holy One,
You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of the Father.

Amen

Gospel Acclamation

All stand to welcome the Gospel (sung):

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Explain and demonstrate – make three crosses: one on your forehead, one on your lips and one on your heart. In this way we think God's word, speak God's word, and keep God's word in our hearts as we say together:

“Glory to You, O Lord.”

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark: Mark 7:31-37

Read the Gospel aloud to the children. At the end say:
“The Gospel of the Lord.”

All reply: **“Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ.”**

Lead a Discussion on the Gospel

The following are some suggestions to start the discussion:

What do you remember from the reading today?

What did Jesus do the man who could not hear, and who has a problem with his speech?

When the man was able to hear and speak more clearly how do you think he felt?

Why do you think the people told everyone about what Jesus did, even when Jesus told them not to? (they were happy, amazed, they did not listen to what Jesus had said).

Prayers of the Faithful

You may wish to prepare some of these yourselves or ask the children for their prayers. Here is a suggestion for today:

Dear Jesus,

We pray for our parish, families and friends: that we may listen to others and speak out when we know that something is wrong, so that all people have the chance to live a happy and healthy life, free from poverty.

Lord, in Your mercy,

All reply: **Hear our prayer.”**

We now pray together saying:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,

thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. **Amen.**

Depending on the time available there may be an activity that can be achieved. There are children's liturgy resources that provide activities.

Closing Prayer

Dear Jesus, help us to follow You every day and to listen when You call our name. **Amen.**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

References

1. The Complete Children's Liturgy Book. Katie Thomson, published by Kevin Mayhew