

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A – 5th February 2023

Introduction

In the Gospel today we hear Jesus say that His disciples are the “salt of the earth” and the “light of the world.”

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).

Penitential Act

Ask the children to think about how they have behaved in the past week. Ask them if they have always been kind and helpful to others, obedient to their parents, listened to their teachers etc.

Lead the children in singing the “sorry song”

We are sorry,
Truly sorry,
Heal us Lord,
In Your love, (sung to tune of Frere Jacques)
Help us to do better,
Help us to be kinder.
Forgive us.
Forgive us.

Gloria (sung)

Choose a children’s version of the Gloria from one of our listed Children’s Liturgy Resource books, or you may have another CL resource. You will probably want to practice your chosen Gloria and use it every week so that everyone becomes familiar with it.

All stand to welcome the Gospel singing the **Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, Alleluia,

Jesus told

His disciples this:

“You are the salt of the earth” (same tune as above)

“You are the light of the world”

Alleluia,

Alleluia.

Gospel

Select the correct Gospel from the Children’s Lectionary. This week it’s on page 77 of “Sunday. Book of Readings. The Lectionary Adapted for Children.” (Year A)

Matthew 5:13-16

“A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew”.

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.”**

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

All reply: **“Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ”**. Ask everyone to be seated.

Lead a Discussion on the Gospel

Ask the children what did Jesus say to the disciples in the Gospel today?

Discuss with the children when/why they would use salt? (For example on chips, or other bland foods to make the taste nice/ give them flavour).

Also discuss with the children why we have lights. What kind of different lights do we have? (Torches, bike lights, car lights, street lights, candles

– also the sun / natural light – daylight. Why do we have artificial lights when it's dark? Discuss how light is essential, to see where you're going, to live, work and play safely and to appreciate the beauty of God's creation.

Ask the children what they think Jesus means when he said that we should "let our light shine for others to see."

(Jesus means that when we are good and kind, generous and helpful, God's light shines in us for others to see. Remind the children that they "received the light of Christ" in Baptism and that when we are good others will see this light in us and will praise God).

Prayers of the Faithful (optional/ time dependent)

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

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for being our light and showing us the way to Heaven. Help us to show Your light to others so that they may know and love You also.

Lord, in Your mercy.

All reply: "**Hear our prayer.**"

Dear Jesus, Help us to bring the light of Your love to others we meet, by being kind and helpful.

Lord, in Your mercy.

All reply: "**Hear our prayer.**"

Closing Prayer

Lets pray to our Mother Mary as we say together:

Hail Mary, Full of grace....

Now ask for volunteers for the Offertory Procession. After the procession, children return quietly to sit with their families in church.