

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C –3rd March 2019

Introduction

Today Jesus talks to the people about goodness. He compares our hearts and actions to the delicious fruits produced by healthy trees. (If you wish, show a picture or bring to the group a piece of healthy fruit.)

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,
Help us to do better, (sung to tune of Frere Jacques)
Help us to be kinder.
Forgive us,
Forgive us.

Gloria

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
Let Your Word grow
In our hearts
So we show Your love to others (same tune as above)
Living lives of goodness
Alleluia, Alleluia.

Gospel

Select the correct Gospel from the Children's Lectionary. This week it's on page 79, Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time in the Book of Readings. The Lectionary Adapted for Children." (Year C)

Luke 6: 43-45

"A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke".

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

What did Jesus say about fruit growing on trees?

("Good trees give good fruit and bad trees give bad fruit." Each type of tree bears a special fruit.)

What makes a strong and healthy tree?

(It gets sunshine, food, water, pruning etc.)

What makes a sick and diseased tree?

(It is not looked after, it doesn't get enough sunshine, food, water or pruning.)

What does Jesus say about people?

(People with good hearts do good things. People with bad hearts do evil things. Our actions everyday show whether our hearts are good or evil.)

Summarize by saying that someone with a good heart is like a healthy tree and acts with goodness. Someone with a bad heart is like a rotten tree and acts with evil. (If you brought a picture or piece of healthy fruit you could show it here.)

Ask what actions fill a good heart? Prompt answers like kindness, gentleness, faithfulness, self-control, love, goodness, joy, peace, patience. (If you wish you can write these words on cut out drawings of fruit and show them to the children.)

Ask what actions fill an evil heart? Prompt answers like envy, laziness, anger, hate, greed and distrust. (If you wish you can write these words on cut out drawings of fruit to the children.)

Discuss with the children how they can show kindness, gentleness, joy, peace and patience at home and school.

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:

Lord Jesus, help us to fill our hearts with kindness, gentleness, joy peace and patience.

Lord, in Your mercy.

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

Lord Jesus, help us to act with goodness each day at home and at school.

Lord, in Your mercy.

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

Closing Prayer

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.

Amen.

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