

Children's Liturgy for Christmas Day 2021

Preparation

- If you have your own crib figures then place them on a table along with a candle, crucifix and Children's Lectionary (or Gospel/ Missal if you are at home)
- If you don't have a crib then, in preparation for today, get the children to draw a nativity scene with Mary and Joseph, baby Jesus in the manger, the star, the shepherds and some animals in the stable!
- If you prefer use a Christmas card or picture of the nativity scene.

Introduction

Today is Christmas Day, the day we have been preparing for all throughout Advent. Today in our churches all over the world the crib will be in place and the final white candle on the advent wreath will be lit.

As we gather this Christmas Day to pray with our families as people of faith we know that God is with us, looking after us.

Let's begin our prayers:

Make the Sign of the Cross – a sign of the love God has for us.

An adult lights the candle.

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, *(To the Tune of Frere Jacques)*
Truly sorry,
Heal us Lord,
In Your love,
Help us to do better,
Help us to be kinder.
Forgive us,
Forgive us.

Gloria (Sung)

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to His people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
Almighty God and Father,
we worship You, we give You thanks,
we praise You for Your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ,
only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
You take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
You are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
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

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

(Sing to the tune of 'If You're Happy and You Know It)

"Alleluia, alleluia, praise the Lord,
Alleluia, alleluia, praise the Lord,

As we listen to the story,
let us praise him for his glory.
Alleluia, alleluia, praise the Lord."⁽¹⁾

Gospel (Luke 2:1-20)

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke

(All say “ Glory to You Oh Lord” while making a cross on your forehead, on your lips and on your heart)

Choose one person to read aloud the text from the Gospel:

Children’s Lectionary pages 10-11

(or read below if you don’t have the Lectionary)

The ruler of Rome, Caesar Augustus ordered a census of the whole world. He made a new law that meant that people must register in the town where they were born.

So Mary and Joseph left Nazareth and travelled to the City of David known as Bethlehem, as Joseph was from the family of David.

While in Bethlehem, the time came for Mary’s baby to be born. Mary gave birth to a son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because there was no room at the inn.

At the same time an Angel appeared to shepherds watching their sheep nearby. The shepherds were afraid, but the Angel said to them:

“Do not be afraid. I have come to bring you good news, news of great joy to be shared by all the people.
Today, in the city of Bethlehem,
a saviour has been born for you,
Christ the Lord! And this will be a sign for you:
You will find a child wrapped in swaddling clothes
and lying in a manger.”⁽²⁾

The shepherds then saw all the Angels in Heaven singing “Glory to God in Heaven, and peace to all people on earth.”⁽²⁾

Immediately, the shepherds left and went to Bethlehem where they found Mary and Joseph and the baby in the manger exactly as the Angel had told them.

The shepherds repeated what the angel had said about the child, and praising God, they returned to their fields. Everyone that heard the shepherds speak was amazed by what they said.

Mary treasured all of these things in her heart.

The Gospel of the Lord

All say: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ

Lead a Discussion on the Gospel

Let's all look at the crib (or nativity picture) and make a silent prayer of love for Jesus in our heart.

Ask the children to name the members of the Holy family present in the crib.

(Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus).

Now let's sing a Christmas carol for baby Jesus:

"Away in a manger no crib for a bed,

The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.

The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay.

The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay."

Prayers of the Faithful

Lord Jesus,

Thank you for our families and friends, and all those who look after and care for us. Help us to show your love to them.

Lord in Your Mercy

-Hear our Prayer

Lord Jesus,

Thank you for being born for us as the child in the manger on the first Christmas Day. You chose to be born into the poor and humble surroundings

of a stable. Help us always to show your love to the poor and the homeless, by helping in any way we can.

Lord in Your Mercy
-Hear our Prayer

Conclusion

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. P349
2. Sunday. Book of Readings. The Lectionary Adapted for Children. Year B. UK publisher Viewpoint Resources Direct. P11.