

EASTER FIFTH SUNDAY YEAR C

18TH MAY 2025

Vestment Colour: White

Introduction

Today Jesus had a very special message for the apostles, he gathered them together as they shared their last meal and explained that he would be leaving them soon.

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”. (sung to tune of Frere Jacques)

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.

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:**
(same tune as above)

Alleluia, Alleluia.
Jesus gave,
A new command,
Love one another,
Love one another,
As I have,
Loved you.

Alternatively say:

Alleluia, alleluia.
A new commandment I give to you, says the Lord,
that you love another, just as I have loved you.
Alleluia.

Gospel

Select the correct Gospel from the Children's Lectionary. This week it's on page 51. Book of Readings. The Lectionary Adapted for Children." (Year C), Alternatively use a new ESV-CE translation of the bible.

John 13:31-33a, 34-35

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

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

- In today's Gospel, Jesus had some important news for the apostles, what did he say?

(He said it would soon be time for him to leave and they would not be able to go with him as he was going to return to his Father in Heaven.)

- He left them with a very special commandment that they should live by. Can you remember what this was?

(He said that they should love each other as He had loved them.)

- How do you think the apostles felt when Jesus gave them this news?

(Children may be mixed in their responses as you enter into discussion with them- very sad as they would miss him, happy that would see him again one day and spend eternity with him. Perhaps they feel ready for their new mission to live out the commandment of loving everyone)

- How can we live out that commandment of love today?

(Being kind to others, doing things before we are asked to, including others, forgiving people that do wrong to us.)

Discuss with the children how they feel when they show God's love. It's not always easy but it's the right thing to do. It helps us to become more like Jesus.

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,

You have asked that we love one another as you loved us. Help us to be strong witnesses to your love daily by our actions and words.

Lord, in Your mercy.

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

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for all that you have done for us. May our love for one another bring others to know and love you, too.

Lord, in Your mercy.

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

Closing Prayer

Let us pray as Jesus taught us to pray as we say together the "Our Father".

"Our Father, who art in heaven

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

Useful Resources

CAFOD at <https://cafod.org.uk/Children-s-Liturgy>

Children's Liturgy with Emily:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HwnLJNMXemY>

Archdiocese of Dunkeld:

<https://www.dunkelldiocese.co.uk/resources-for-children-liturgy/>

Search for page entitled 'Resources for Children's Liturgy'

The Liturgy of the Word with Children by Katie Thompson, publisher Kevin Mayhew