

EASTER THIRD SUNDAY YEAR C

4TH MAY 2025

Vestment Colour: White

Introduction

In today's gospel we hear about how the disciples were fishing all night and caught nothing. After Jesus appears and tells them to put out their nets again, they caught a huge haul of fish.

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 (optional /time dependant)

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 to Peter said
"Peter, do you love me?
Peter, do you love me?
Feed my lambs
And my sheep."

Alternatively say:

Alleluia, alleluia.
Christ is risen, who created all things
And has shown compassion on the human race.
Alleluia.

Gospel

Select the correct Gospel from the Children's Lectionary. This week it is the Third Sunday of Easter in the Book of Readings. The Lectionary Adapted for Children." (Year C). Alternatively use a ESV-CE new translation bible.

John 21:3-19

"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

- Where were the Apostles and what were they doing. (They had gone out in their boat and had been fishing all night).
- Who came to see them? (Jesus appeared to them).
- What did Jesus ask the disciples? What did He tell them to do and what happened next? (Jesus asked if they had caught anything. and when they said no, he asked them to put their nets out again and this time they caught a huge quantity of fish)
- What happened next? (Jesus had lit a charcoal fire to cook some fish and He asked them to bring some of the fish that they had just caught to eat for breakfast).
- What did Jesus then ask Peter? ("Do you love me more than the others do?"). How many times did Jesus ask peter this? (Three times).

- Remember that when Jesus was arrested Peter had denied being a friend of Jesus three times. Now, Jesus showed his love for Peter by giving him another chance to show his love for Him.
- What did Peter say? (“Yes, Lord You know that I love You”)
- What did Jesus say? (“Feed my lambs” and “Feed my sheep” and “Follow me”).
- When does Jesus come to us as food for our souls? (When we receive Jesus in Holy Communion).

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,
Help us to love you and to show your love to others in our daily lives.

Lord, in Your mercy.

All reply: **“Hear our prayer.”**

Dear Jesus,
Help us to remember to tell You that we love You when we pray to You and especially when You come to us in Holy Communion.

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