
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

2nd August 2026

Vestment Colour: Green

The Archdiocese of St Andrew's & Edinburgh has a website that contains further resources, information and plans for Children's Liturgy for use by Children's Liturgy Leaders. A full template is available on the website.

Health & Safety: *Once you are all assembled, take a head count in case of the need to evacuate (if possible, roster of names). Candles are permitted if they are included in your risk assessment.*

Introduction:

Leader: Today, in the Gospel, we see how Jesus takes care of all our needs. He cured the sick and knowing that the crowds were hungry He worked another miracle to ensure that they were all fed. He took the little food that the disciples had – the five loaves and two fish - and with this fed more than 5000 people!

Make the Sign of the Cross together.

Light the candles on the table next to the Lectionary.

The Collect:

Leader: Draw near to your servants, O Lord, and answer their prayers with unceasing kindness, that, for those who glory in you as their creator and guide, you may restore what you have created and keep safe what you have restored. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen

The Gospel Acclamation: All stand to welcome the Gospel. (*You can encourage the children to sing the Alleluia*).

Alleluia, alleluia.

One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

Alleluia.

Alternatively, you can use the following (*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.

Gospel: Select the correct Gospel from the Children's Lectionary (Year A). Alternatively use an approved translation of the Bible (the ESV-CE version or Good News Bible for Children). *Do not paraphrase the Gospel; however, you may need to explain unusual or difficult words and names to the children.*

Matthew 14: 13-21

Leader: "A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew".

All: "Glory to You, O Lord."

Read the Gospel aloud to the children. At the end say:

Leader: "The Gospel of the Lord".

All reply: "Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ". Ask everyone to be seated.

Gospel Reflection: *the following are some suggestions to help with a discussion around the Gospel.*

What did you hear in the Gospel today? Acknowledge and encourage them.

Where was Jesus at the start of today's Gospel and why? (Jesus had heard that John the Baptist was dead and he had gone away in a boat to be alone and pray).

When Jesus reached the shore, what did He see? (Jesus saw a huge crowd of people looking for Him).

How did Jesus feel? Was He angry that the people were looking for Him? (Jesus felt sorry for the people, and He spent time with them, healing the sick).

What happened next? (The disciples wanted to send the people away as it was late in the day and they wanted to send them away to buy their own food).

What did Jesus say to the disciples? (He told them not to send the people away and asked them to give them food).

What did the disciples say? (They replied that they only had five loaves and two fish).

What did Jesus say? (Jesus told the disciples to get the people to sit down).

What did Jesus do? (Jesus took the bread and fish and blessed it, broke it and gave it to the disciples to feed the people. More than 5000 people were fed and there were 12 baskets of scraps left over).

Why did Jesus do this? (Jesus did this to look after the people. He showed the disciples that He is God and that if we place our trust in Him all things are possible! Even though it looked impossible to feed all those people with only five loaves and two fish, Jesus showed that nothing is impossible for God. He shows His love and compassion for the people, healing the sick and feeding them when they are hungry. He is also teaching us to share what we have with others who are less fortunate).

Ask the children if they remember to share with others? (maybe share toys with brothers, sisters, friends etc.)

Ask how they feel when they share and how they feel when their friends share toys, sweets etc. with them. This week, try to remember to share with others and to take care of and look after each other just like Jesus.

Prayers of the Faithful:

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

We now ask Our Lord to hear our prayer

Leader:

Lord

We pray that we will always be kind to each other and share what we have especially with others who are less fortunate than ourselves.

Lord, in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayer

Leader:

Lord

We pray that we may truly listen to your word and hear what we should do to follow you.

Lord, in Your mercy.

All: Hear our prayer.

Closing Prayer:

Pray together the “Our Father”

All: Amen.