

Fifth Sunday of Lent Year A-26th March 2023

Introduction

Today is the fifth Sunday of Lent – a time of forty days of preparation for Easter, beginning on Ash Wednesday. In Lent we do three things to bring us closer to God, so that we may truly celebrate the joy of Easter. (Ask children if they remember what three things we should do during lent.) During Lent we **PRAY** more, we **FAST** (give up something we like), and we show love or **CHARITY** to those around us by being generous and sharing and not being selfish. The most important of these three actions is prayer.

In today's Gospel we hear about something very amazing that Jesus does for his sick friend Lazarus.

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)
Forgive us,
Forgive us.

NO Gloria DURING LENT

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

Praise to You Lord,
Praise we give You,
Christ Our King,
You have said, (same tune)
“Go now, do not sin.
God’s Good News is for You”
Praise to You,
Christ our King.

Gospel

Select the correct Gospel from the Children’s Lectionary. This week it’s on page 33-35, Fifth Sunday of Lent, in the Book of Readings. The Lectionary Adapted for Children.” (Year A)

John 11:1-45

“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

What happened in the Gospel today?(Martha and Mary sent a message to Jesus that His friend Lazarus was sick in the town of Bethany. Jesus went to him-but he had already died and was buried in a tomb(like a cave) for four days. Jesus and the people went to the tomb and removed the stones from the entrance.

Jesus asked Lazarus to come out of the tomb. Lazarus walked out in his burial clothes (like a mummy).

Compare the resurrection of Lazarus to a tadpole or butterfly. Seeing new life created is exciting even though we know what is going to happen.

How do you think Martha and Mary felt when their brother died? Jesus too was sad that His friend died.

Jesus prayed to God His Father before a He asked Lazarus to come out of the tomb. Why do you think He did that? (To show the people that God raised Lazarus from the dead -to show that Jesus is the Son of God – to encourage the people to glorify God).

What does Jesus want us to remember from this Gospel?(That he loves us, will look after us, and if we believe and trust Him, He will give us a new life).

This miracle is probably one of the most dramatic ones that Jesus performed. It may be hard to believe that He could do something like this. That is why He wanted many people there to see it and believe. He hoped that they would tell others that He was the Son of God and that God is our loving Heavenly Father.

During Lent we are encouraged to be charitable. How can you help others this week?

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:

We pray to Jesus help of all those in need:

Leader: We pray for the Church, that our leaders know what to do and say. Lord in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for the world, that our leaders will act with fairness to all. Lord in Your mercy.

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for peace in our world and peace in our hearts. Lord in Your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Jesus, help us each day to act like You by loving and forgiving others. Lord in Your mercy.

All: Hear our prayer.

Closing Prayer

Hail Mary, full of grace.....

Amen.

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